pdc

TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

OCT. 1970 50¢

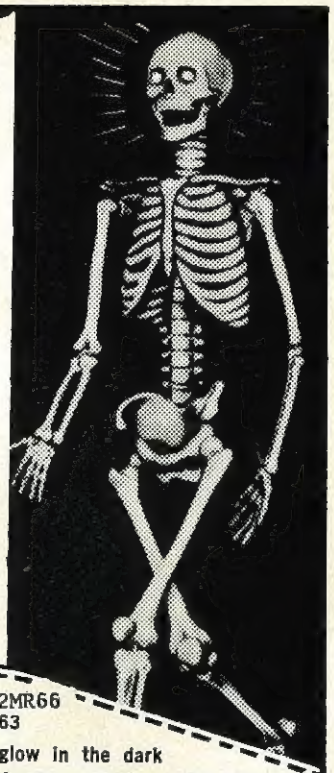
Tales Of SHOCK THAT CHILL WITH THE FANTASTIC "FEAST FOR VAMPIRES"

TERROR With The "ZOMBIE ARMY"

SUSPENSE Rides The "DEAD MAN'S TRAIN"

Plus Other Weird Tales

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY $1.00

TEN DAY FREE TRIAL

Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out—bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out—as aweful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes—Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polyethelene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

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Honor House Dept. 472MR66
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New York State Residents please add 5% sales tax.

Sea Horse 'Ranch'

ONLY $2.98

Adults and children alike gasp and laugh with delight when they see these wonderful and unusual pets from the sea. These curious creatures with heads like little horses, are unlike any fish. They swim and move through the water without any apparent effort. They hitch themselves by their tails to anything they can grab including each other. When you look at them, they look back at you. They sail around, they feed themselves, they turn summersaults and "stand on their heads." The female lays the eggs in the male's pouch and he hatches them. The baby sea ponies come out alive ready to swim.

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Sea Horses Have:

- Cute Pony Heads
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- Pouches for carrying baby sea horses
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Order these delightful pets today! You get everything you need and you must be delighted or you may return your sea horse ranch for full purchase price refund. Live delivery guaranteed!

Here is what you get:

- 2 Live Healthy Sea Horses
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- Sea Horse Food
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Rush me my Sea Horse Ranch today on your Free Trial Money Back Guarantee offer stated above.

Send.....Sea Horse Ranches. I enclose $2.98 plus 25c shipping charges for each.

Name.....

Address.....

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WEIRD

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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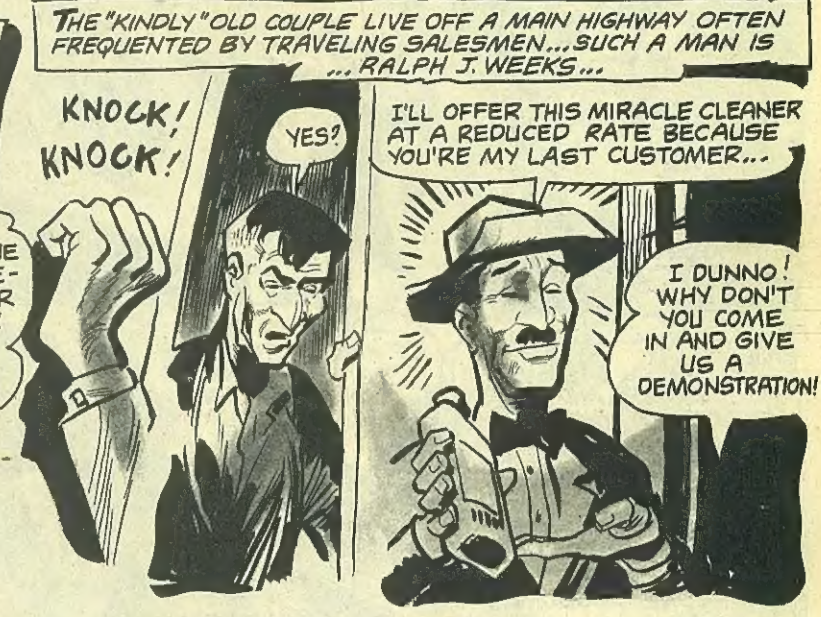
HERE'S ANOTHER **SLIMY SAGA** CALCULATED TO KEEP YOUR STOMACHS **CHURNING**, FELLOW **GHOULS!** IT'S A **REPULSIVE** TALE COMPOSED OF **HORROR** AND **FEAR**, WITH TWO **VAMPIRES**...
...WE CALL IT...

FEAST FOR VAMPIRES

YOU FOLKS ARE SHORE SWELL! I NEVER MIND DRIVING WAY OUT HERE 'CUZ I ALWAYS GET A FINE RECEPTION!
THAT'S 'CUZ WE LIKE YOU, LEM! WE LIKE EVERBODY IN RIVERDALE!

AFTER THE ICEMAN'S DEPARTURE, THE NORRISES STARTED THEIR EVENING MEAL...
GOOD DINNER TONIGHT, PA! MOST EVERYTHING YOU LIKE!
BLOOD JUICE COCKTAIL... BROILED CLOTS, FRENCH-FRIED VEINS AND HOT BLOOD COFFEE!
FINE, MARTHA!

IN CASE YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, KIDDIES, MARTHA AND HENRY NORRIS ARE VAMPIRES...
FINE FLAVOR! THE YOUNG ONES ARE ALWAYS BEST!
YER RIGHT, PA! TOO BAD THIS IS THE LAST OF HIM! SOMEBODY ELSE BETTER SHOW UP SOON! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FOOD LEFT!


THE "KINDLY" OLD COUPLE LIVE OFF A MAIN HIGHWAY OFTEN FREQUENTED BY TRAVELING SALESMEN... SUCH A MAN IS ... RALPH J. WEEKS...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
YES?
I'LL OFFER THIS MIRACLE CLEANER AT A REDUCED RATE BECAUSE YOU'RE MY LAST CUSTOMER...
I DUNNO! WHY DON'T YOU COME IN AND GIVE US A DEMONSTRATION!

THE SALESMAN GLADLY ACCEPTS PA NORRIS' OFFER... MINUTES LATER...
... AND MIRACLE CLEANER IS ALSO GUARANTEED TO...
HE LOOKS JUST FINE, DON'T HE, PA?
YUP, MA! MIGHTY TASTY!

THE NEW MIRACLE CL-- HEY! WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...
GRAB HIM, PA!
SHORE WILL!

POOR RALPH WEEKS DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE...
LEMME GO... NO! NO!!
NOW, NOW, DON'T GET EXCITED... IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN JUST A SECOND!
OUR TWO "FRIENDS" ARE OLD HANDS AT THIS GAME AND WEEK'S IS DEAD IN MINUTES!
FINE CATCH, MARTHA!
LET'S HURRY AND GET HIM DISSECTED AND INTO THE FREEZER! WE DON'T WANT HIM TO SPOIL!
YES, THESE ARE MODERN VAMPIRES WITH ALL THE NEWEST CONVENIENCES!
THIS FREEZER HAS BEEN A BIG HELP, DEAR!
IT SHORE HAS! REMEMBER THE FUNNY LITTLE GUY WE GOT IT FROM? WASN'T VERY GOOD EATING, WAS HE?
TRAVELING SALESMEN, TRUCK DRIVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS WHO HAD FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE ISOLATED CABIN PROVIDED THE VAMPIRE'S DIET... AND NO ONE IN TOWN IS THE WISER! IT'S A WEEK LATER AS WE REJOIN THE GRUESOME TWOSOME...
NOBODY'S BEEN UP HERE IN TEN DAYS, PA! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? THAT LAST FELLA IS ALMOST GONE!
TRY NOT TO WORRY, DEAR... SOMEBODY'LL SHOW UP!
I HOPE SO, PA!
BUT FATE WORKS AGAINST THEM AND ANOTHER WEEK PASSES WITHOUT A "MEAL" APPEARING AT THE CABIN...
PA, WE AIN'T HAD A MORSEL IN EIGHT DAYS! ONLY THOSE DANG BONES!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
HOWDY, FOLKS! OK IF I BRING THE ICE IN FAST... THE HEAT'S CAUSIN' IT TO MELT!

YESSIR! IT'S LIKE AN OVEN OUTSIDE!
IT'S A SHAME, BUT WE GOTTA DO IT!
YER RIGHT! IT'S HIM OR US!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
HEY!
SORRY, LEM! YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND... BUT FOOD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FRIENDS!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR HISTORY OF MURDER, MARTHA AND HENRY NORRIS ATTACK A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY...
YIAAAHH!
AH, THAT WAS GOOD!
YES, BUT, PA, I'M WORRIED! PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE GONNA MISS LEM... GONNA WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!
MARTHA IS RIGHT... ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE NORRISES RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE LOCAL SHERIFF...
AND SO WHEN LEM DIDN'T COME HOME, GLADYS GOT WORRIED AND CALLED ME! SHE SAID YOU WERE LISTED AS HIS LAST DELIVERY OF THE DAY!
THAT'S RIGHT, HANK! HE WAS HERE 'BOUT FOUR THIRTY, DELIVERED THE ICE AND THEN LEFT!
SHORE IS FUNNY! AIN'T NOBODY SEEN HIM SINCE HE LEFT HERE!
MEBBE HE HAD AN ACCIDENT!
OR MEBBE HE WUZ KID-NAPPED!

BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE SHERIFF DOESN'T AGREE WITH EITHER OF THESE THEORIES AS HE LEAVES WITH ONE LAST LOOK AROUND...
I'M SCARED, PA! HE LOOKED AT US FUNNY!
HE CAN'T PROVE A THING... BUT WE'D BETTER NOT TOUCH NOBODY FROM TOWN!
NPD
BUT DESPITE THEIR PLEDGE WHEN A WEEK PASSES WITHOUT A NEW VICTIM FINDING HIS WAY TO THE CABIN...
EVENIN', HENRY! AIN'T SEEN YOU AND MARTHA IN TOWN FER MONTHS!
BEEN TOO BUSY, PAUL! WE'RE OUT FER SOME FUN TONIGHT!
PSST, HENRY... WE DON'T DARE!
NICE TO SEE YOU, HENRY! THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AROUND BEFORE LONG!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SHERIFF? YOU THOUGHT WE'D BE AROUND?
WH--OH! EVENIN' HANK! Y-YOU STARTLED ME! DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
YOUNG TOM CAREY DIED YESTERDAY! THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO TO THE FUNERAL!
OF COURSE, HANK... WE'D LIKE TO PAY OUR RESPECTS!
THE CAREYS DON'T BELIEVE IN EMBALMING, SO ACCORDING TO LAW, THE FUNERAL'S GOTTA BE WITHIN 48 HOURS! IT'LL BE AT WOODLAWN, TOMORROW AT ELEVEN!
WE'LL BE THERE!
INSTEAD OF THEIR ORIGINAL PLAN, THE NORRISES RETURN HOME TO FIGURE OUT A NEW ONE...
IT'S PERFECT! AFTER THE FUNERAL WE DIG UP THE BODY...
AND YOUNG TOM'LL BE IN GOOD SHAPE...NO EMBALMING!
BUT THE NORRISES AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WITH A PLAN...
HANK, YER CRAZY... I'VE KNOWN HENRY AND MARTHA NORRIS FOR...
MEBBE I AM CRAZY... BUT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS 34 MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THIS VICINITY! BOTH ME AND THE STATE POLICE TRACED 'EM AS FAR AS THE NORRIS PLACE AND NO FURTHER!

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, MAC! IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
B-BUT (SOB) OUR ONLY SON... I... I (SOB)...
IF HANK NEEDS OUR HELP, WE GOTTA GIVE IT TO HIM, AGNES! IT'S OUR DUTY!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT WOODLAWN CEMETERY...
ASHES TO ASHES...
LOOK AT HIM... SO YOUNG AND TENDER!
HENRY! STOP! PEOPLE WILL NOTICE!
LATER...
IT AIN'T QUITE DARK YET, PA! I'M AFRAID!
WE CAN'T WAIT, MARTHA! HURRY UP!
WHEN WE GET FINISHED, WE'LL SHOVEL THE DIRT BACK AND NOBODY'LL EVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!
THE GRISLY TASK OF EXHUMING THE CORPSE IS COMPLETED WITHIN A FEW MINUTES...
WAIT FOR ME!
AT LAST! AT LAST!
SQUEEE
NINE DAYS OF HUNGER CAUSES OUR "FRIENDS" TO MAKE SHORT WORK OF THEIR FEAST...
OH, NO... NO!

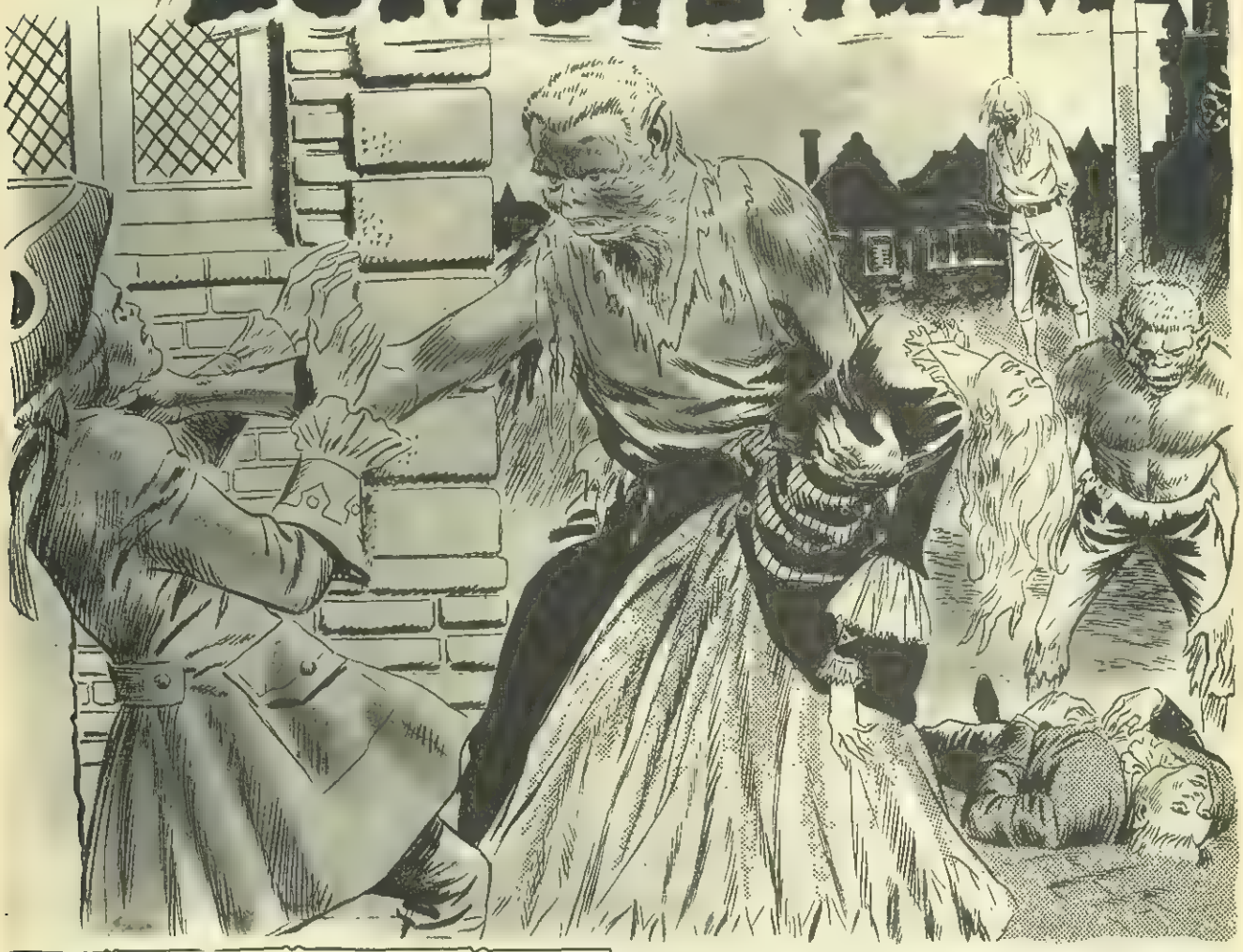
YOU WUZ RIGHT, HANK! VAMPIRES! THEY'RE VAMPIRES!
GET 'EM! KILL 'EM!

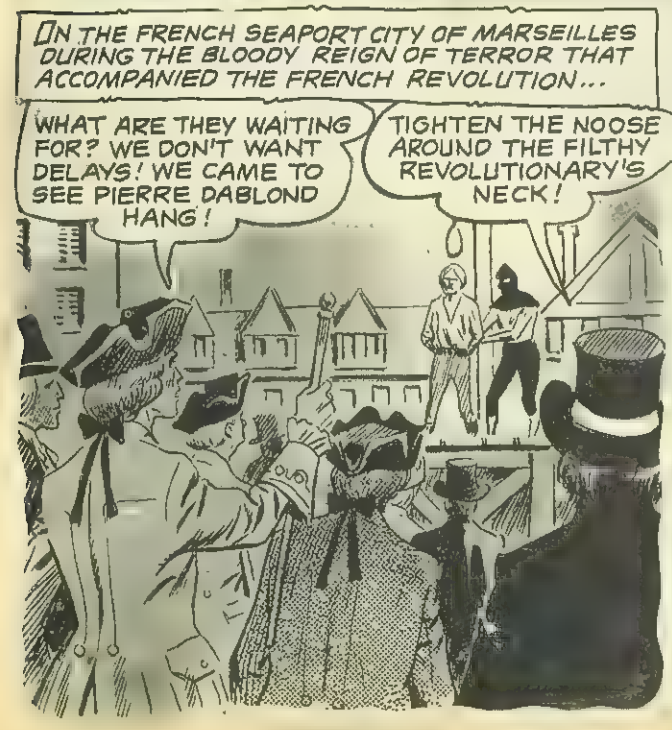
Y-YER NUTS? WE...
O-DON'T COME NEAR US! I WARN YOU, HANK!
WE DON'T HAVE TO COME NEAR YOU, MARTHA! YOU'VE ALREADY SIGNED YER OWN DEATH WARRANT!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
H-HENRY... MY S-STOMACH... ON... FIRE!

BUT AS HENRY MOVES TOWARD HIS WIFE, HE TOO IS STRICKEN WITH THE SAME SEARING SENSATION IN HIS CHEST...
...THEY WRITHE AND TWIST IN PAIN... AND THEN ALL IS QUIET... THEY MOVE NO MORE...
MARTHA, I...
I DON'T GET IT, HANK! WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU MIGHT CALL IT FOOD POISONING, BOB! INSTEAD OF BLOOD, THEY WERE DRINKING EMBALMING FLUID... TOM'S BODY WAS EMBALMED!
AGRHRRR!
THE END

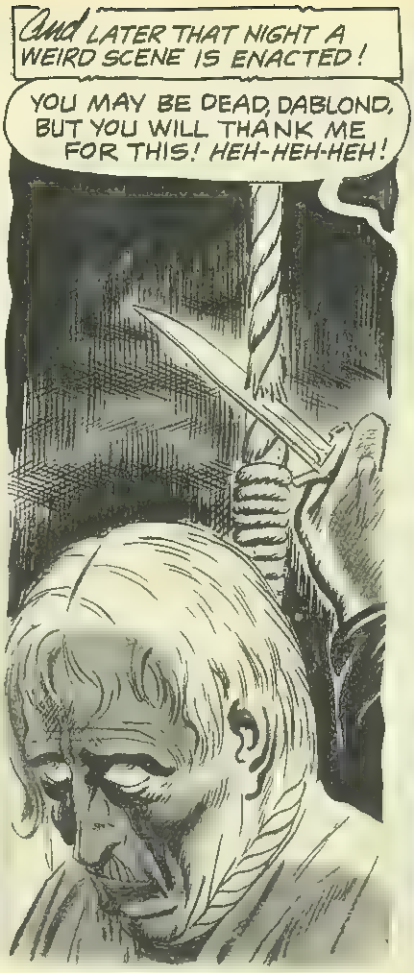
OLD JEAN DACK DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO THE INVENTION OF A FLUID TO RESTORE LIFE TO THE DEAD! BUT WHEN THE IMPERFECT LIQUID FELL INTO EVIL HANDS, AN UNBELIEVABLE HORROR WAS BORN WITH...

THE ZOMBIE ARMY





BUT AS THE ROYALIST CROWD DISPERSES, SATISFIED THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY PIERRE DABLOND SHALL PLAGUE THEM NO MORE, ONE SPECTATOR VIEWS THE CORPSE INTENTLY!
I COULD MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS CORPSE!

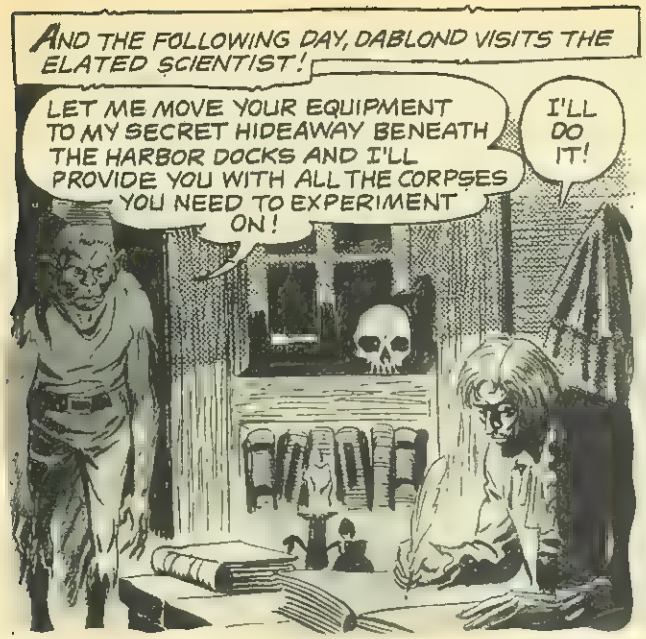

And LATER THAT NIGHT A WEIRD SCENE IS ENACTED!
YOU MAY BE DEAD, DABLOND, BUT YOU WILL THANK ME FOR THIS! HEH-HEH-HEH!

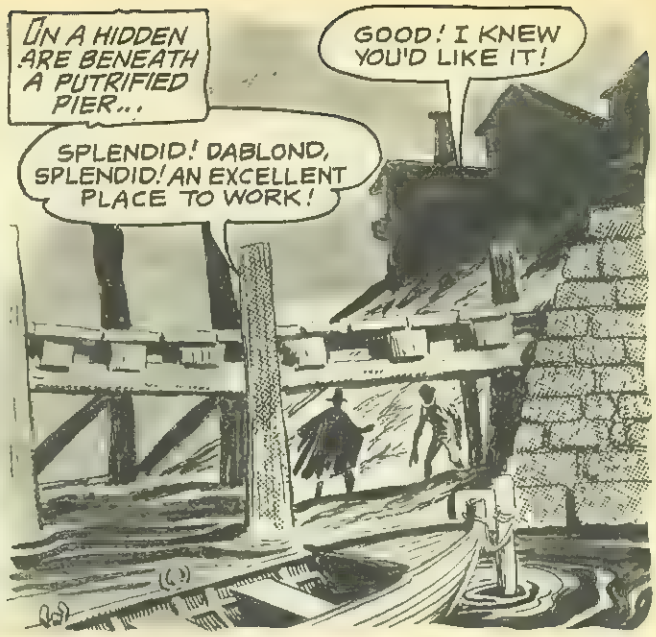
... AND NOW TO MY LABORATORY! THIS IS A FATEFUL EVENING!

THIS STRANGE SCIENTIST ACTUALLY BRINGS THE DEAD MAN BACK TO LIFE WITH AN INJECTION OF A MYSTIC FLUID!
AHA! ... HE LIVES AGAIN! SUCCESS!
... I-I ... WHERE AM I ...

I ... I WAS HANGED BY THOSE ROYALIST SWINE! AND NOW YOU ...
SPLENDID! SPLENDID! THE MIND IS UNIMPAIRED!

THE OLD MAN ACTUALLY BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE, BRAWNIER IF NOT HANDSOMER THAN BEFORE! NOW I SHALL AVENGE MY DEATH! WHAT HE DID FOR ME HE SHALL DO FOR OTHERS ... AND THEN ... HA-HA-HA!

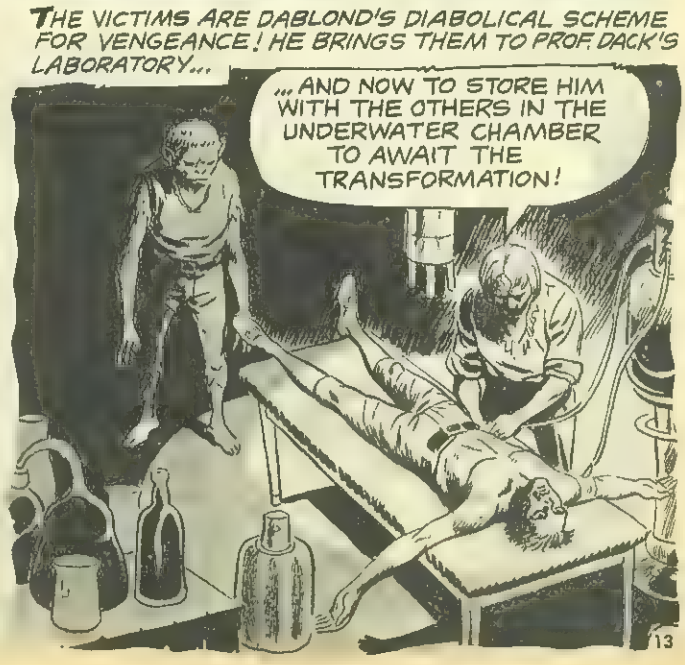

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, DABLOND VISITS THE ELATED SCIENTIST!
LET ME MOVE YOUR EQUIPMENT TO MY SECRET HIDEAWAY BENEATH THE HARBOR DOCKS AND I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE CORPSES YOU NEED TO EXPERIMENT ON!
I'LL DO IT!


ON A HIDDEN ARE BENEATH A PUTRIFIED PIER...
GOOD! I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT!
SPLENDID! DABLOND, SPLENDID! AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO WORK!

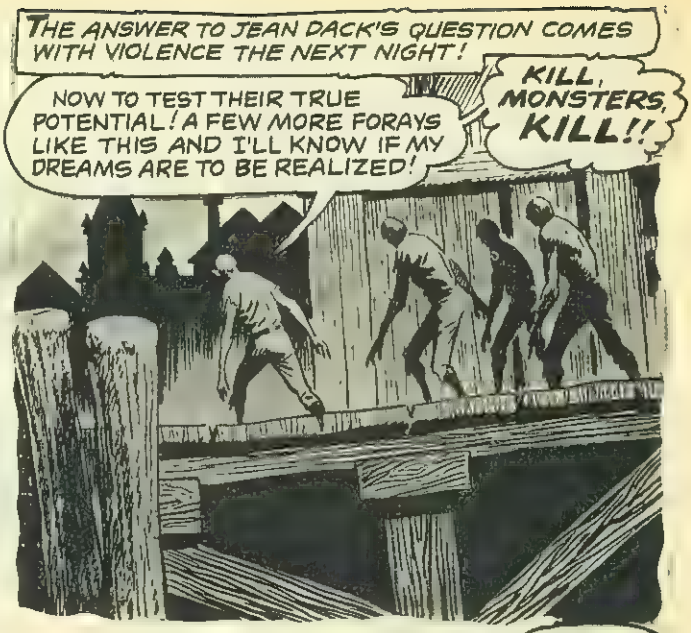
THAT NIGHT!
HERE COMES A LIKELY VICTIM! WITH A LEGION OF THEM, I'LL CONTROL ALL OF FRANCE!

ARGHHH!
HAH! YOU'RE THE FIRST OF MANY, M'SIEUR!

LATER THAT NIGHT!
DIE! DIE! ... WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROF. DACK!

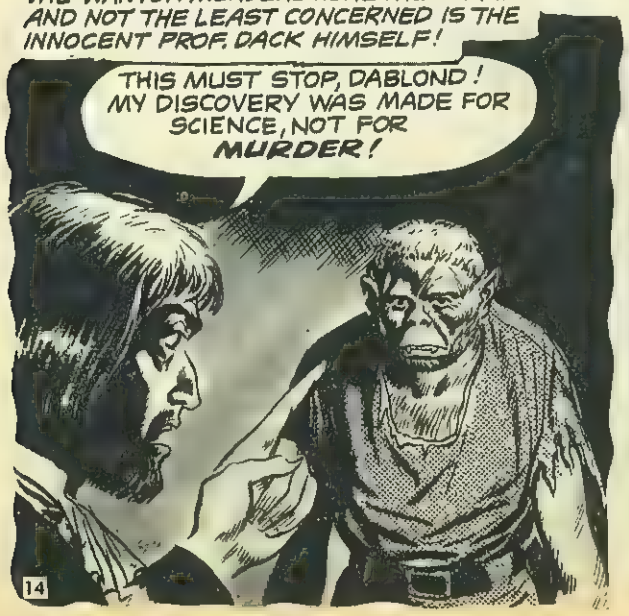

THE VICTIMS ARE DABLOND'S DIABOLICAL SCHEME FOR VENGEANCE! HE BRINGS THEM TO PROF. DACK'S LABORATORY...
... AND NOW TO STORE HIM WITH THE OTHERS IN THE UNDERWATER CHAMBER TO AWAIT THE TRANSFORMATION!

WEEKS LATER!
WELL DONE, DACK! THEY HAVE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND THEIR BRAIN IS PROPERLY DWARFED! I SHALL BE THEIR MASTER!
YES, DABLOND! BUT WHY YOU WANT THEM LIKE THIS IS BEYOND ME!


THE ANSWER TO JEAN DACK'S QUESTION COMES WITH VIOLENCE THE NEXT NIGHT!
NOW TO TEST THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL! A FEW MORE FORAYS LIKE THIS AND I'LL KNOW IF MY DREAMS ARE TO BE REALIZED!
KILL, MONSTERS, KILL!!

AIEEE!

GOOD HEAVENS! HELP!


THE WANTON MURDERS HURL THE CITY INTO PANIC AND NOT THE LEAST CONCERNED IS THE INNOCENT PROF. DACK HIMSELF!
THIS MUST STOP, DABLOND! MY DISCOVERY WAS MADE FOR SCIENCE, NOT FOR MURDER!

HA-HAW! YOUR USEFULNESS IS AT AN END, DACK! DIE!
...N-NO...I... ARRGHH-H!

AND AS DAWN BREAKS, DABLOND LEADS HIS FANTASTIC LEGION TO DESTROY THE CITY ITSELF...

THE HORRIBLE HORDE RAVAGES EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH! KILLING RUTHLESSLY...
THE MONSTERS! ...HELP! HELP!

ARGOOARGH!
D-DON'T-- AGGRRAAA!

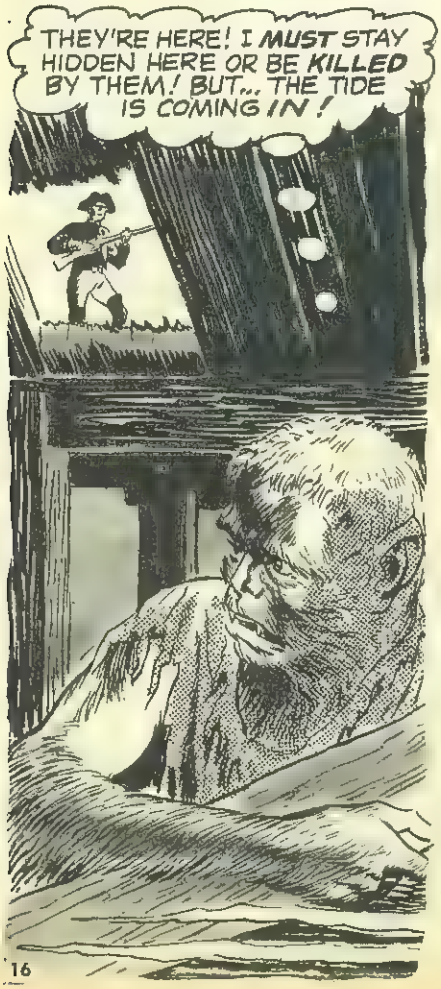
THE SUN'S HEAT IS KILLING MY MONSTERS! WHY DIDN'T DACK TELL ME THIS WOULD HAPPEN?

GRRRMMPH!!

I'VE LOST! AND NOW THE ARMY IS AFTER ME!
DABLOND! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

PURSUED BY THE ARMY, THE MADDENED DABLOND RACES TOWARD HIS WATERY SANCTUM!
MUST GET TO THE PIER! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME THERE!

ARRIVING AT HIS ASYLUM UNDER THE PIER, THE HYSTERICAL BEING CRINGES IN FEAR LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL...

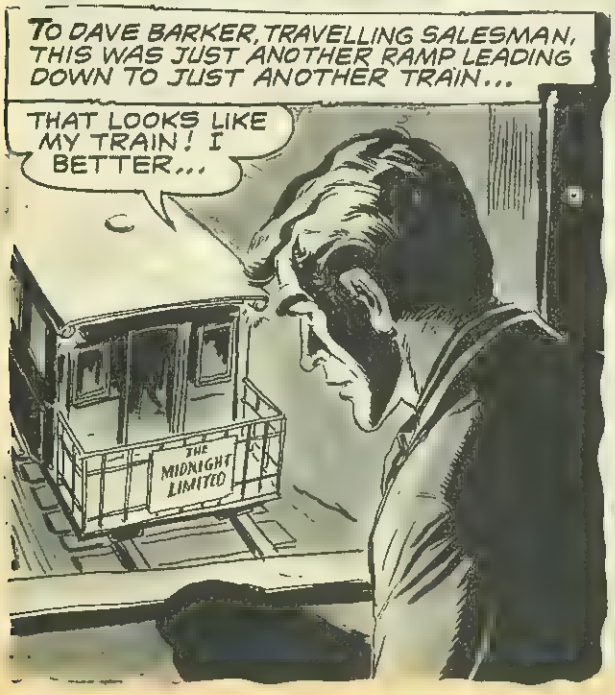

THEY'RE HERE! I MUST STAY HIDDEN HERE OR BE KILLED BY THEM! BUT... THE TIDE IS COMING IN!

...THEY'RE STILL HERE...AND THE TIDE IS...N-NO!
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM BELOW?
AIEEEEE!

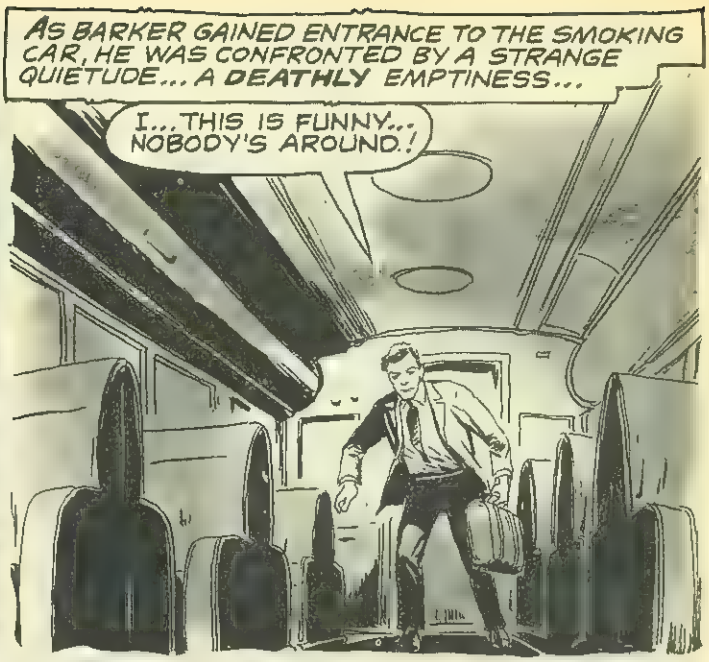
And SO, PIERRE DABLOND DIES AS HORRIBLE AS HE LIVED... FOR THE SECOND TIME!
THE END

A SHRILL, EERIE BLAST PIERCES THE NIGHT, AND THEN A MUFFLED, KNELLING CLACKETY-CLACK... A HORRIBLE CHUGGING OF A TRAIN'S WHEELS... AND FINALLY THE...

DEAD MAN'S TRAIN



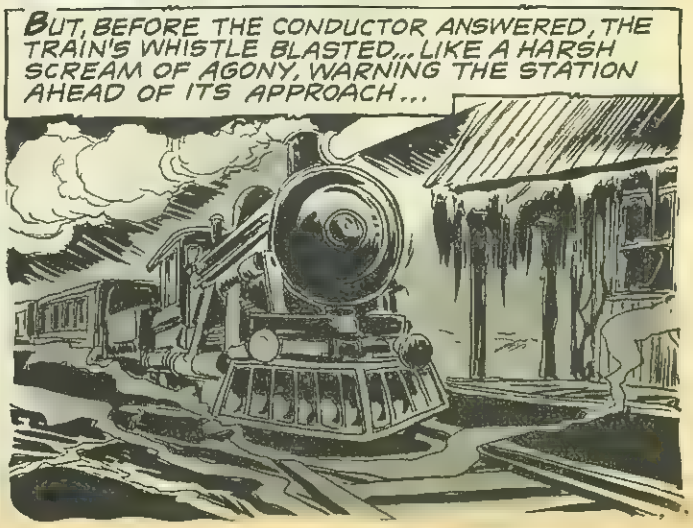
MADE IT! NOW TO GET INSIDE...
MIDNIGHT LIMITED

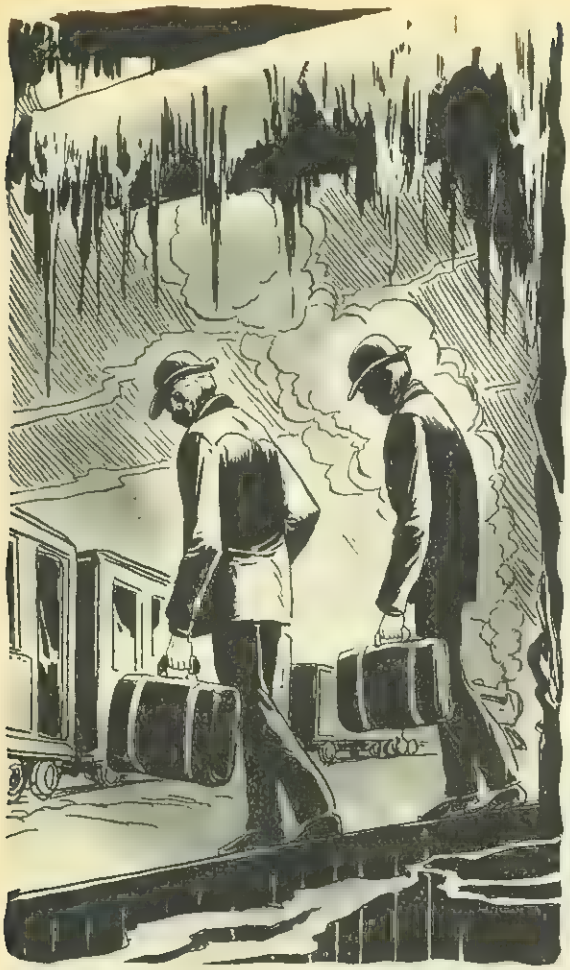

AS BARKER GAINED ENTRANCE TO THE SMOKING CAR, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY A STRANGE QUIETUDE... A DEATHLY EMPTINESS...
I... THIS IS FUNNY... NOBODY'S AROUND!

THE TRAIN LOOKS DESERTED! CAN'T FIND... WAIT! THERE'S SOMEBODY...

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
YES! MY NAME'S DAVE BARKER, I... I'M LOOKING FOR MY COMPARTMENT!

TAKE ANY ONE... THEY'RE ALL ALIKE!
WHY, THAT'S ODD FOR ANY TRAIN I'VE BEEN ON... WHAT TRAIN IS THIS?


BUT, BEFORE THE CONDUCTOR ANSWERED, THE TRAIN'S WHISTLE BLASTED... LIKE A HARSH SCREAM OF AGONY, WARNING THE STATION AHEAD OF ITS APPROACH...



THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! BUT, I... DON'T RECALL THIS STATION! WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'VE GOT TO TALK TO SOMEONE... THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOT ON AT THE LAST STOP... I'LL ASK THEM...

FRANTICALLY, BARKER COMBED THE TRAIN FOR THE TWO LATE ARRIVALS, THEN, AT THE END OF A NARROW, DANK VESTIBULE HE FOUND...
THE SMOKING CAR! THEY'RE PROBABLY IN HERE!

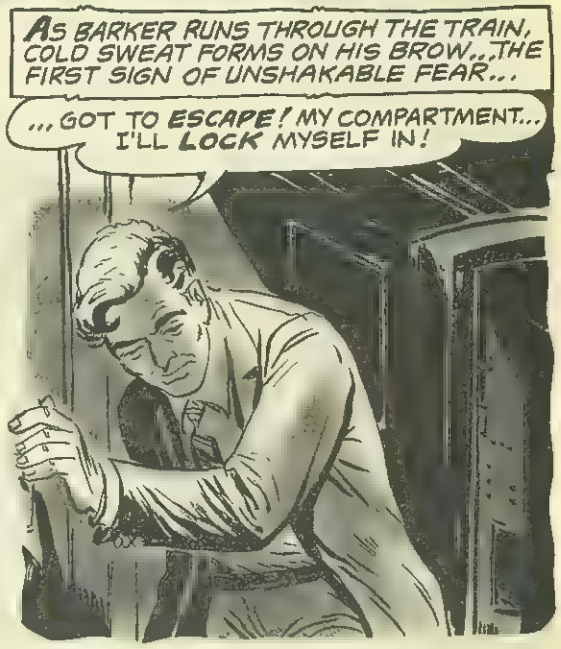
HELLO! MY NAME'S... AIEEEE!!

UGH! THEY'RE DEAD... DEAD MEN! WHAT KIND OF TRAIN AM I ON?

YAAAAA!
MR. BARKER, I'VE BEEN LOOKING OVER OUR PASSENGER LIST... YOUR NAME IS NOT ON IT!

I...I TOOK THE WRONG TRAIN! I'LL GET OFF AT...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SEE... THIS IS THE MIDNIGHT LIMITED! IT STOPS ONLY FOR... THE DEAD!

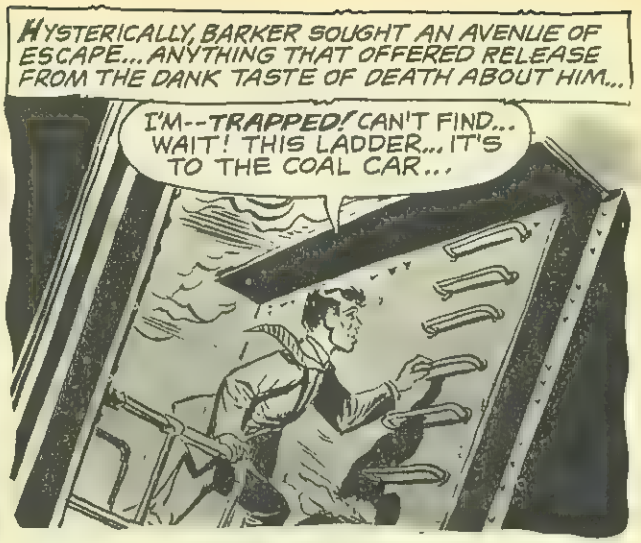
YOU MUST STAY ON! THEREFORE... YOU MUST DIE!!
NO! KEEP AWAY!


AS BARKER RUNS THROUGH THE TRAIN, COLD SWEAT FORMS ON HIS BROW...THE FIRST SIGN OF UNSHAKABLE FEAR...
...GOT TO ESCAPE! MY COMPARTMENT... I'LL LOCK MYSELF IN!

THE DOOR DOESN'T LOCK! NO KEY... I WHAT IS...?

YOU CANNOT LIVE...
ARGGHHH!... CAN'T BREATHE...

UNHH!
FREE! I MUST RUN... RUNNN!

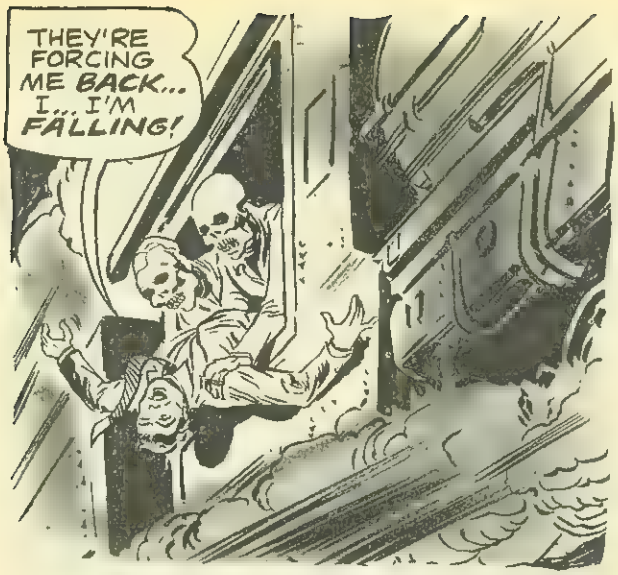

HYSTERICALLY, BARKER SOUGHT AN AVENUE OF ESCAPE... ANYTHING THAT OFFERED RELEASE FROM THE DANK TASTE OF DEATH ABOUT HIM...
I'M--TRAPPED! CAN'T FIND... WAIT! THIS LADDER... IT'S TO THE COAL CAR...

I'LL NEVER BE FOUND... UP THERE!

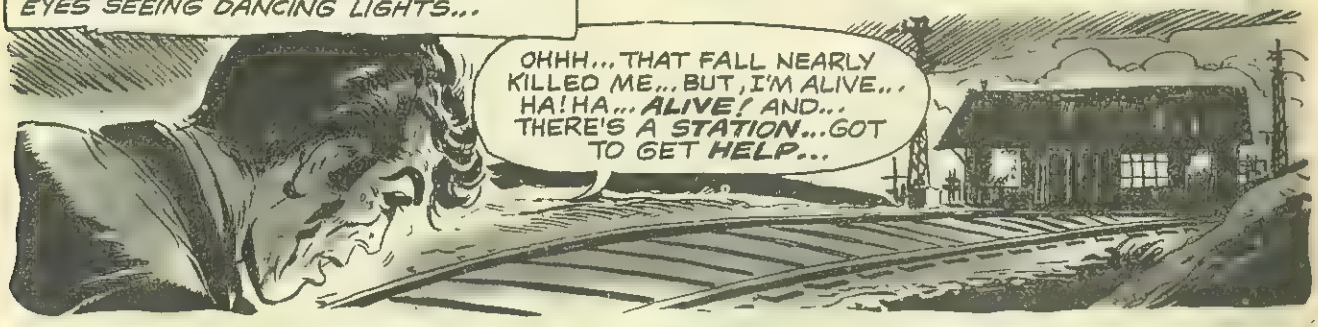
THE ENGINE! HA! HA! I'LL STOP THIS TRAIN MYSELF! IT'LL NEVER REACH ITS DESTINATION! I'LL BE SAFE... HA-HA!

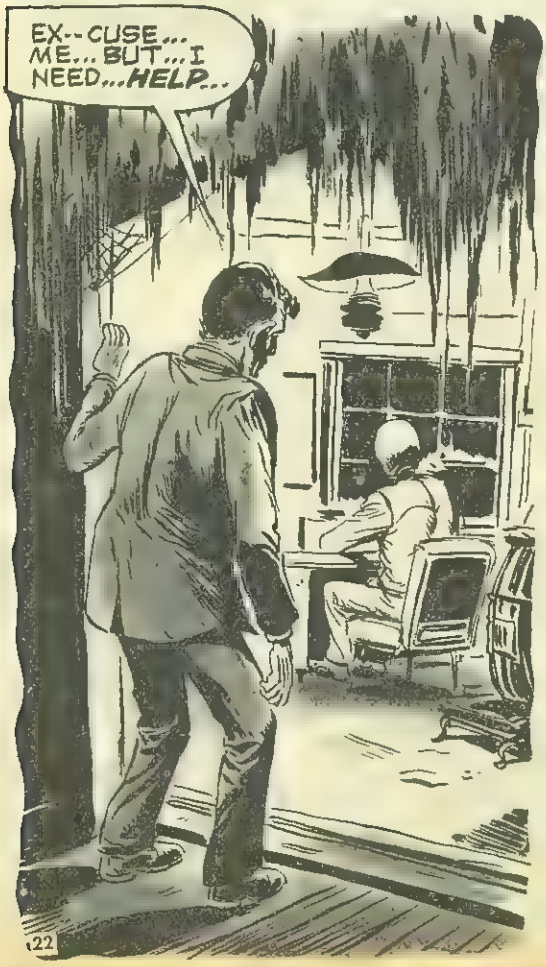
YAAA! THEY'VE SEEN ME! THAT SHOVEL...

GET BACK... LET ME ALONE!



AS THE HAUNTING SOUND OF THE TRAIN RECEDED INTO THE DISTANCE, BARKER FOUND HE WAS STRANGELY ALIVE...HIS EARS BUZZING WITH NUMBNESS...HIS EYES SEEING DANCING LIGHTS...





SO, DAVE BARKER NOW AWAITS THE TRAIN HE BOARDED BY MISTAKE! BY AN EERIE STATION SOMEWHERE OUT THERE HE LISTENS FOR THE WAILING WHISTLE OF THE MIDNIGHT LIMITED!

The End

SLOWLY THE DREAD VEHICLE CREAKS TO A HALT. SLOWLY IT'S TERRIBLE DRIVER LURCHES OUT. SLOWLY HE STALKS TOWARD YOUR HOME WITH HIS SPINE-CHILLING MERCHANDISE...

NIGHTMARE MERCHANT

PETER DOYLE AND HIS LOVELY, YOUNG WIFE, ANNE WERE DELIGHTED TO BUY THE GLOOMY OLD HOUSE ON A G.I. LOAN...

THE DOYLES SNAPPED UP THE FORMER OWNER'S OFFER. IT TOOK JUST A FEW HOURS TO PICK UP THEIR POSSESSIONS FROM THEIR OLD FURNISHED APARTMENT AND RETURN TO THEIR NEW HOME...

YOU'RE STILL HAPPY ABOUT THIS DEAL, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOT SAYING MUCH. I SHOULD THINK YOU'D BE BUBBLING OVER WITH JOY.

Y-YES, DARLING, I'M HAPPY, I GUESS, B-BUT...

SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU, ANNE? WHAT IS IT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM ME.

NOTHING SENSIBLE. IT'S... THIS HOUSE. I SEEM TO SENSE SOMETHING ***EVIL*** ABOUT IT. BUT IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION, OF COURSE.

FRANKLY, THE PLACE ***DOES*** LOOK LIKE A TYPICAL HAUNTED HOUSE. LET'S FORGET SUCH NONSENSE, OR WE'LL NEVER BE HAPPY HERE.

PETER! DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ***STRANGE*** ABOUT MR. BLACK, THE FORMER OWNER? TELL ME THE TRUTH. DIDN'T YOU NOTICE SOMETHING PECULIAR?

HE'S ABOUT THE UGLIEST MAN I'VE EVER SEEN. AND I'VE SEEN PLENTY. BUT HE BEATS THEM ALL!

NO, PETER. THERE WAS SOMETHING ***ELSE*** ABOUT HIM. I CAN'T QUITE PIN IT DOWN... BUT THAT MAN ***FRIGHTENS*** ME... TERRIFIES EVERY INSTINCT IN ME. I KEEP TELLING MYSELF IT'S ALL MY IMAGINATION... BUT... I KNOW IT ISN'T...

PETER... DO YOU MIND HOLDING ME? I'M ***AFRAID!*** THIS HOUSE... THAT DREADFUL MAN! THEY GIVE ME THE SHAKES!

YOU'RE JUST A SCARED LITTLE KITTEN. DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THE DARK. SMILE, DARLING! LAUGH AWAY THOSE FOOLISH FEARS!

NEITHER WOULD CONFESS IT TO THE OTHER, BUT THEY WERE MORE THAN MERELY AFRAID... THEY WERE ***TERRIFIED***... OF THIS CREAKING OLD HOUSE... AND THE UNPLEASANT MR. BLACK...

WHY DID I EVER LET PETER BUY THIS AWFUL PLACE? I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND!

ANNE'S RIGHT! THERE ***IS*** SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT'S UNCANNY...

THEY SLEPT A FITFUL, TROUBLED SLEEP. BUT NEXT MORNING, IN THE BRIGHT REALITY OF DAYLIGHT, THEIR NIGHT-FEARS APPEARED FOOLISH IMAGININGS...

WHAT A COUPLE OF FRIGHTENED KIDS WE WERE LAST NIGHT! AND WE ACTUALLY CONSIDER OURSELVES ADULTS!

WE'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER! BUT WE CAN LAUGH AT IT NOW. MAYBE WE'VE BEEN SEEING TOO MANY HORROR MOVIES!

FUNNY WHAT A DILAPIDATED OLD HOUSE CAN DO TO THE IMAGINATION OF TWO LEVEL-HEADED PEOPLE. YOU WON'T BE AFRAID TO REMAIN HERE DURING THE DAY, WILL YOU, ANNE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR KITTEN, HONEY. I'M OVER THE SHAKES! I'LL BE SENSIBLE! I PROMISE!

SORRY THERE ISN'T TIME FOR ME TO SHARE BREAKFAST WITH YOU, OR I'LL BE LATE TO THE OFFICE! 'BYE, SWEETHEART!

'BYE! DON'T RUSH TOO FAST. REMEMBER YOUR HEART.

POOR PETER! HE HAS SUCH AN EXCITABLE NATURE. BUT HE'S BEEN WARNED THAT ANY UNUSUAL EXCITEMENT MAY PROVE FATAL TO HIS WEAK HEART...

ALONE IN THE AGED HOUSE, ANNE LOOKED ABOUT, SHUDDERED, THEN...

A GOOD DUSTING AND CLEANING WILL SHAKE SOME OF THE SCARINESS OUT OF YOU! WHEN I FINISH WITH YOU, YOU WON'T LOOK THE SAME. YOU'LL BE BRIGHT... CHEERY...

ARMED WITH BROOM, MOP AND CLEANING RAGS, ANNE ATTACKED THE HOUSE'S FILTH...

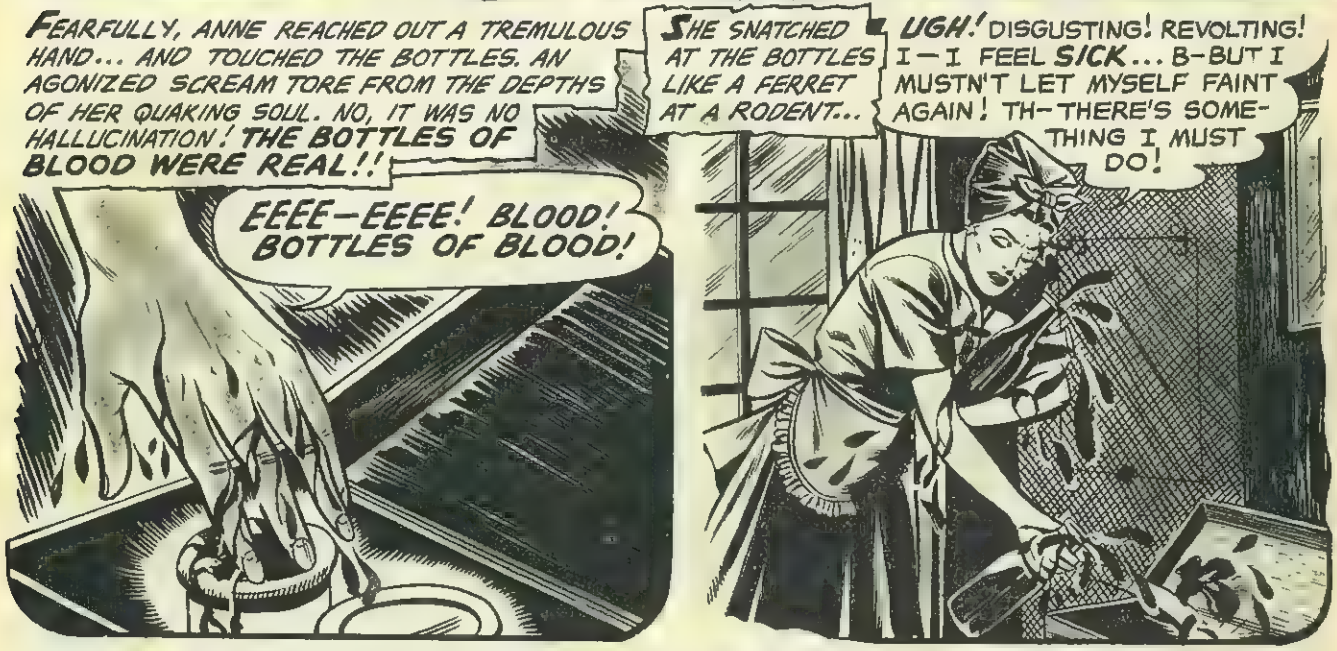
NEVER SAW A PLACE SO RELUCTANT TO PART WITH DIRT... BUT THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES MADE AROUND HERE!

MUSTN'T FORGET TO CLEAN OUT THE MILK DELIVERY COMPARTMENT...

AT FIRST SHE THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST ORDINARY MILK BOTTLES. THEN, SHE LOOKED CLOSER, AND...

AIIIEEEE!! BOTTLES OF FRESH BLOOD!!

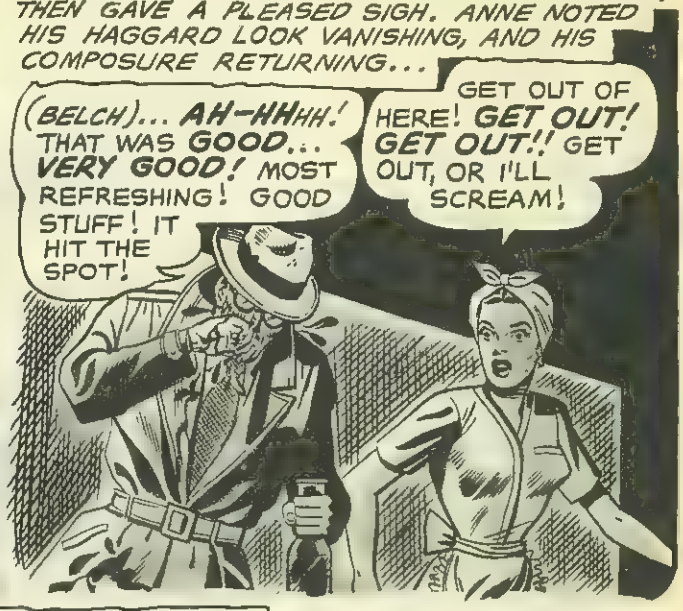
ANNE FAINTED! LATER — AS SHE REVIVED...
IT COULDN'T BE TRUE! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! I... I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT... LIKE THOSE FOOLISH FEARS OF LAST NIGHT... THINGS LIKE THIS J-JUST DON'T HAPPEN!
HALLUCINATIONS... SELF HYPNOSIS, A PSYCHIATRIST WOULD CALL IT. MUSTN'T LET MYSELF IMAGINE THINGS THIS WAY, OR IT WILL DRIVE ME CLEAR OUT OF MY MIND! I'VE GOT TO BE SENSIBLE! FACE REALITY! I-I'LL FORCE MYSELF TO LOOK AGAIN!
BUT WHEN SHE LOOKED AGAIN, THE HORRIBLE SIGHT PERSISTED...
N-N-N-N-NO!!

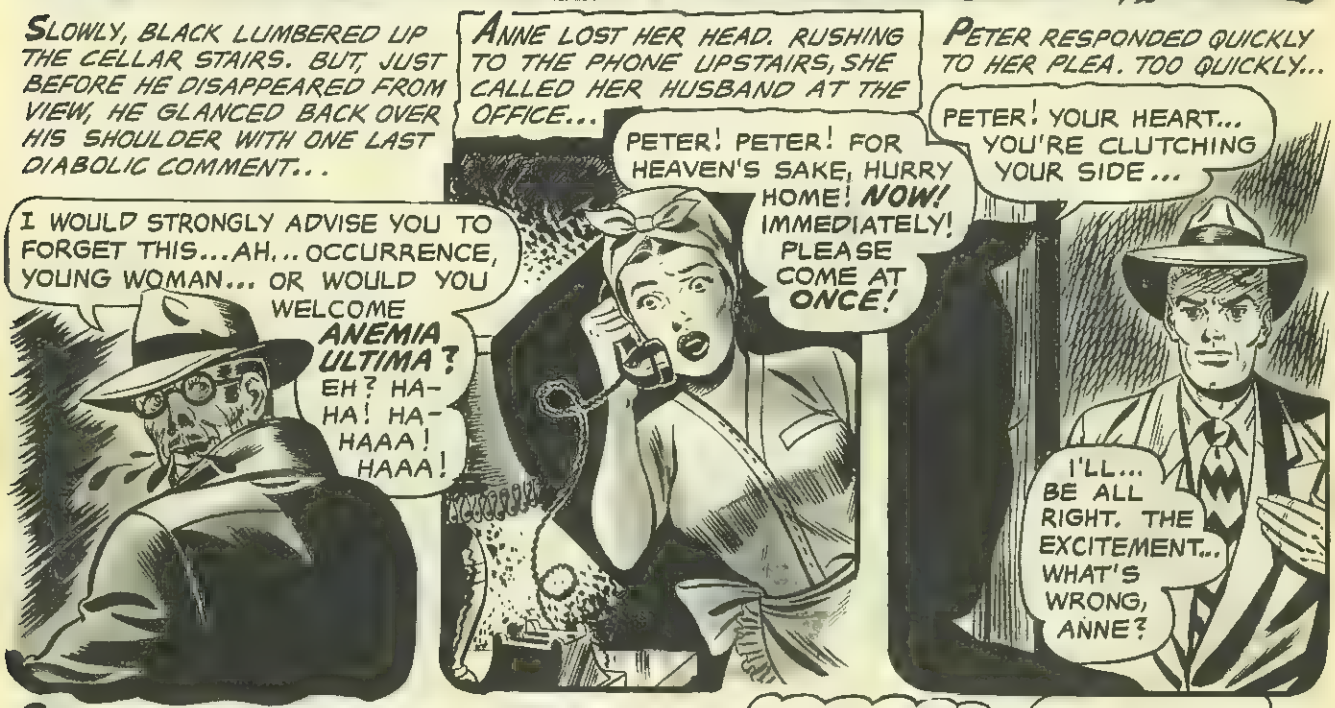

FEARFULLY, ANNE REACHED OUT A TREMULOUS HAND... AND TOUCHED THE BOTTLES. AN AGONIZED SCREAM TORE FROM THE DEPTHS OF HER QUAKING SOUL. NO, IT WAS NO HALLUCINATION! THE BOTTLES OF BLOOD WERE REAL!!
EEEE-EEEE! BLOOD! BOTTLES OF BLOOD!
SHE SNATCHED AT THE BOTTLES LIKE A FERRET AT A RODENT...
UGH! DISGUSTING! REVOLTING! I-I FEEL SICK... B-BUT I MUSTN'T LET MYSELF FAINT AGAIN! TH-THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST DO!

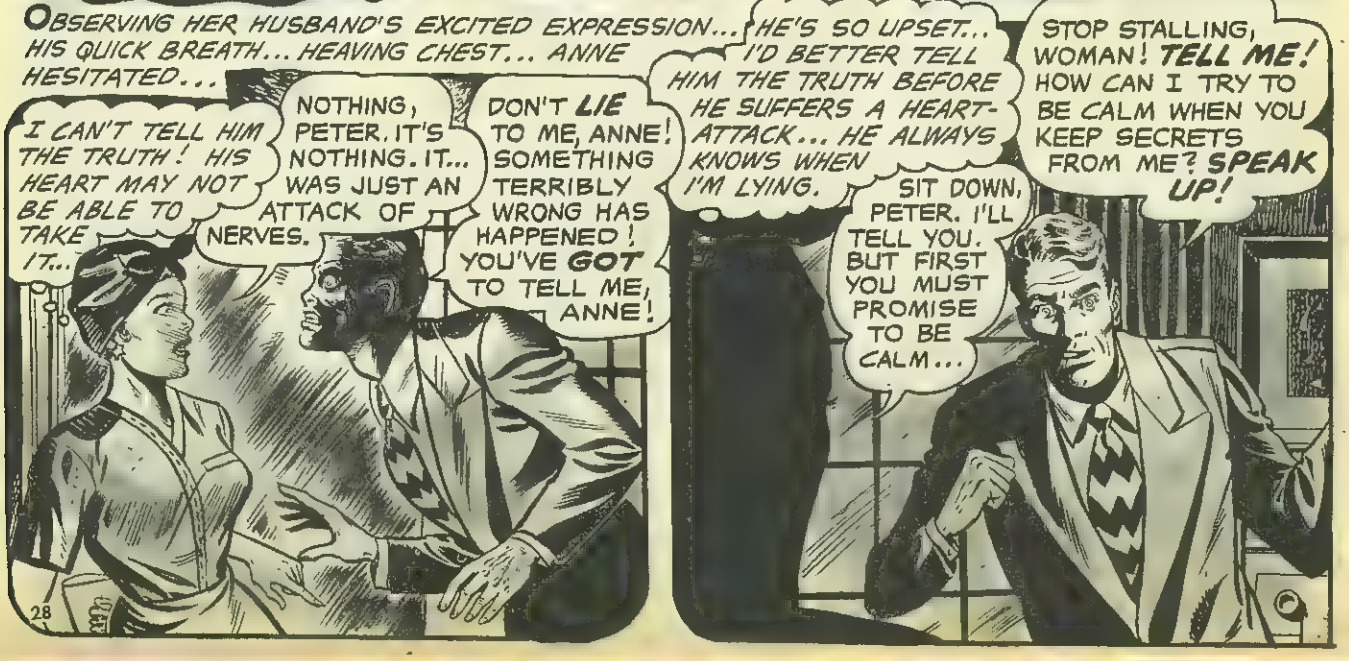
DOWN THE RICKETY CELLAR STAIRS CLATTERED HER HEELS LIKE A BERSERK WOODPECKER...
GOT TO HIDE "THEM"!! PUT THEM AWAY SOME PLACE WHERE THEY CAN'T BE SEEN!
PETER MUST NEVER KNOW! HIS WEAK HEART... HE COULDN'T STAND THE SHOCK OF THIS! I MUST NEVER TELL HIM... NEVER!!

RACING BACK UPSTAIRS, ANNE COLLAPSED INTO A CHAIR, TREMBLING AND WEAK AND FRIGHTENED. HER HEART THUDDED. HER THOUGHTS WHIRLED AND SPUN LIKE A CRAZED PIN-WHEEL...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? DEAR ME! WH-WHAT... DOES... IT... MEAN? THERE MUST BE SOME SANE SOLUTION TO THIS GHASTLY PRANK!
THEN THE DOORBELL RANG! IT RANG AGAIN AND AGAIN, WITH A MAD URGENCY...
COMING! COMING! WHOEVER IT IS, SEEMS EXCITED. WHO CAN IT BE?
MR. BLACK! WHAT DO YOU WANT? PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER RETURN WHEN MY HUSBAND IS HOME.
GIVE "THEM" TO ME! NOW! RIGHT NOW!
GIVE YOU "WHAT"? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! GO AWAY, MR. BLACK! I'M... NOT... FEELING... WELL...
OH, YES, YOU DO KNOW! I WARN YOU, MRS. DOYLE! YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THOSE BOTTLES, OR... WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU WILL BE STRICTLY YOUR FAULT!
ANNE'S FIRST HUNCH HAD BEEN RIGHT! MR. BLACK WAS A TERRIBLE INDIVIDUAL INDEED! SIGHTING THE INSANE RAGE FLICKERING IN HIS SUNKEN ORBS, ANNE RAN TOWARD THE CELLAR DOOR...
GIVE IT TO ME! GIVE ME THE BLOOD! I WANT THE BLOOD, MRS. DOYLE! I'VE GOT TO GET THAT BLOOD!
SHE SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT IN HIS FACE... BUT HIS RACING FORM BATTERED IT OPEN. DOWN THE CELLAR STAIRS CLATTERED BLACK AFTER SHRIEKING ANNE...
BLOOD! BLOOD!! GIVE ME BLOOD!!! I'M THIRSTY!!!
HERE! TAKE YOUR BLOOD! TAKE IT... AND GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!!
BLOOD!!!

(GUK-KK)... (GURGLE)...
UGH!.. OH-HH... HE'S DRINKING IT-TTTTT... GULPING, SLURPING, LAPPING UP THE BLOOD...

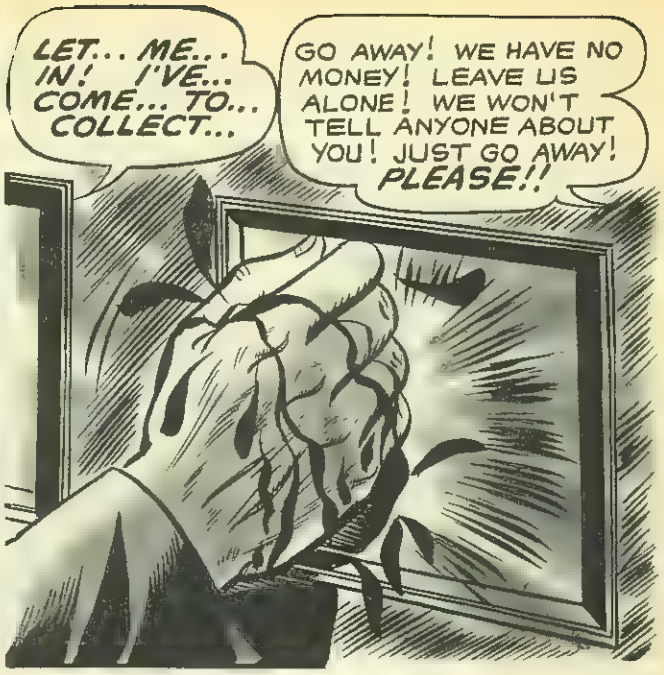

WIPING A RED SMEAR FROM HIS LIPS WITH HIS JACKET SLEEVE, THE SATIATED VISITOR BURPED, THEN GAVE A PLEASED SIGH. ANNE NOTED HIS HAGGARD LOOK VANISHING, AND HIS COMPOSURE RETURNING...
(BELCH)... AH-HHHH! THAT WAS GOOD... VERY GOOD! MOST REFRESHING! GOOD STUFF! IT HIT THE SPOT!
GET OUT OF HERE! GET OUT! GET OUT!! GET OUT, OR I'LL SCREAM!


SLOWLY, BLACK LUMBERED UP THE CELLAR STAIRS. BUT, JUST BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW, HE GLANCED BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER WITH ONE LAST DIABOLIC COMMENT...
I WOULD STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO FORGET THIS...AH,..OCCURRENCE, YOUNG WOMAN... OR WOULD YOU WELCOME ANEMIA ULTIMA? EH? HA-HA! HA-HAAA! HAAA!
ANNE LOST HER HEAD. RUSHING TO THE PHONE UPSTAIRS, SHE CALLED HER HUSBAND AT THE OFFICE...
PETER! PETER! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HURRY HOME! NOW! IMMEDIATELY! PLEASE COME AT ONCE!
PETER RESPONDED QUICKLY TO HER PLEA. TOO QUICKLY...
PETER! YOUR HEART... YOU'RE CLUTCHING YOUR SIDE...
I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT. THE EXCITEMENT... WHAT'S WRONG, ANNE?


OBSERVING HER HUSBAND'S EXCITED EXPRESSION... HIS QUICK BREATH... HEAVING CHEST... ANNE HESITATED...
I CAN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH! HIS HEART MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE IT...
NOTHING, PETER. IT'S NOTHING. IT... WAS JUST AN ATTACK OF NERVES.
DON'T LIE TO ME, ANNE! SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG HAS HAPPENED! YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME, ANNE!
HE'S SO UPSET... I'D BETTER TELL HIM THE TRUTH BEFORE HE SUFFERS A HEART-ATTACK... HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHEN I'M LYING.
SIT DOWN, PETER. I'LL TELL YOU. BUT FIRST YOU MUST PROMISE TO BE CALM...
STOP STALLING, WOMAN! TELL ME! HOW CAN I TRY TO BE CALM WHEN YOU KEEP SECRETS FROM ME? SPEAK UP!

AND SO ANNE TOLD HER MATE EVERYTHING...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME! WHY DOES MR. BLACK DRINK BLOOD? I'VE WRACKED MY BRAIN FOR THE ANSWER. IS THE MAN A MANIAC?
MR. BLACK DRINKS BLOOD BECAUSE MR. BLACK IS... A VAMPIRE!
OH, N-NO! BUT HOW DID THOSE BOTTLES OF BLOOD GET IN THE MILK DELIVERY CONTAINER? ANSWER THAT PETER!
IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE... INSANE... BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, ANNE. BRACE YOURSELF! HERE IT COMES!
THERE MUST EXIST A BLOOD-DELIVERY SERVICE FOR VAMPIRES! WHEN MR. BLACK MOVED, HE MUST HAVE NEGLECTED TO NOTIFY THE MILKMAN... I MEAN, BLOOD-MAN"... OF HIS NEW ADDRESS. IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, ANNE!
THEN... THE BLOODMAN WILL COME AGAIN?
HE WILL COME. HE WILL COME INTO OUR HOUSE! HE WILL COME AFTER US! ANNE! WHAT WILL THEY DO TO US NOW THAT WE KNOW THEIR SECRET? WH-WHAT WILL BE OUR FATE?
BE CALM, PETER! YOU PROMISED TO BE CALM! REMEMBER YOUR HEART!
CALM, AT A TIME LIKE THIS? CALM, WITH MONSTERS AFTER US? I'M TRYING TO BE CALM, BLAST YOU! GET ME A GLASS OF WATER, QUICK!
I'M NOT STAYING IN THIS HORROR-HOUSE ANOTHER MINUTE! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE, PETER, AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME! DON'T ARGUE ANY MORE!
NO, ANNE! WE CAN'T FLEE THE SUPER-NATURAL. "THEY" WOULD TRACK US DOWN, NO MATTER WHERE WE HID. WE'VE... WE'VE GOT TO FACE THEM, PRAY FOR MERCY! GET ME MY PILLS!!
ALL THAT DAY, AND ALL THAT NIGHT, THEY WAITED... EACH SECOND AN UNBEARABLE TORTURE... AND THEN... IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING...
A MAN IN BLACK... DRIVING A BLACK DELIVERY VAN... IT'S... IT'S HIM AT LAST!
THE BLOODMAN! HE'S ARRIVED!! HE'S C-COMING HERE!!

UP TO THE WALK HE LURCHED WITH A PERMANENT LEER, HIS STEPS AS MEASURED, AND INEVITABLE, AS DEATH ITSELF!


LET... ME... IN! I'VE... COME... TO... COLLECT...
GO AWAY! WE HAVE NO MONEY! LEAVE US ALONE! WE WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOU! JUST GO AWAY! PLEASE!!

MONEY? — I... DON'T... COLLECT... MONEY! I... COLLECT... BODIES!!
IT'S THIS HORRIBLE HOUSE... IT'S CURSED — AND WE'RE CURSED WITH IT! DOOMED...
CRASH
HUSH... MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE...

THE BLOODMAN IS A GHOUL!
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON FORCE? YOU KNOW THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
VAMPIRES PAY HIM FOR BLOOD BY GIVING HIM THE BODIES OF VICTIMS! V-VICTIMS —L-LIKE... US!!

TWO... BODIES! — PAID... IN... FULL!!
THE COLD MOON WAS WITNESS... BUT THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY AGAIN... SOON ANOTHER "FOR RENT" SIGN WOULD GO UP AND MORE TENANTS WOULD COME ALONG... NO, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO FACE THE BLOOD MAN, BUT WHEN THE MOON CAME FULL AND TOLD ITS GRIM STORY TO THE NIGHT WIND, WOULD THE HORROR RETURN? FOR TO BE SURE... HERE IS A HOUSE THAT IS TRULY HAUNTED!
THE END

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The UNDYING FIEND

SOMEWHERE ON THE BLEAK, WINDSWEPT COAST OF ENGLAND LAY THE **BARROW**— A LONG DECAYING **MOUND**, THE GRIM RELIC OF ANOTHER DAY! AND SLUMBERING DEEP IN THE MOUND WAS **IT!** THE BODY OF A GIANT NORSEMAN WHO HAD DIED CENTURIES BEFORE IN ONE OF THE TERRIBLE VIKING RAIDS WHICH HAD SPREAD PILLAGE AND TERROR THROUGHOUT THE LAND! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING INCREDIBLY DIFFERENT ABOUT **THIS** BODY, FOR **IT** HAD NEVER REALLY **DIED!** SOMEONE, THROUGH FEAR OR NEGLECT, HAD FORGOTTEN THE WOODEN STAKE WHICH MUST BE DRIVEN INTO THE HEART OF EVERY **VAMPIRE** BEFORE IT CAN BE REALLY KILLED! SO ONE DAY THE ANCIENT BARROW WAS OPENED AND **IT** WALKED AGAIN! AND AN INNOCENT AND UNSUSPECTING GIRL BECAME THE UNWILLING **BRIDE OF THE VAMPIRE...**

SOMEWHERE ON THE DESOLATE, NORTHEAST COAST OF ENGLAND...

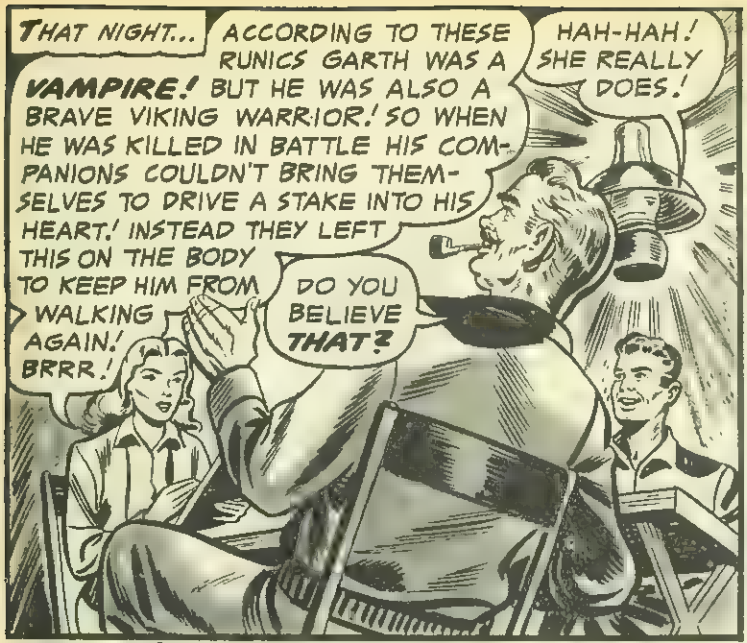
WE WERE RIGHT, MARCIA! AN OLD VIKING DRAGON SHIP!

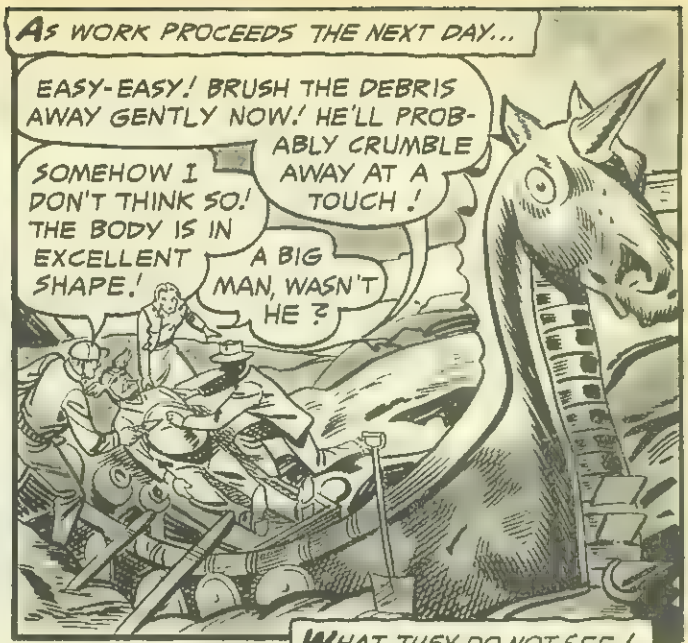
I HOPE THEY LEFT A RUNIC INSCRIPTION BEHIND!

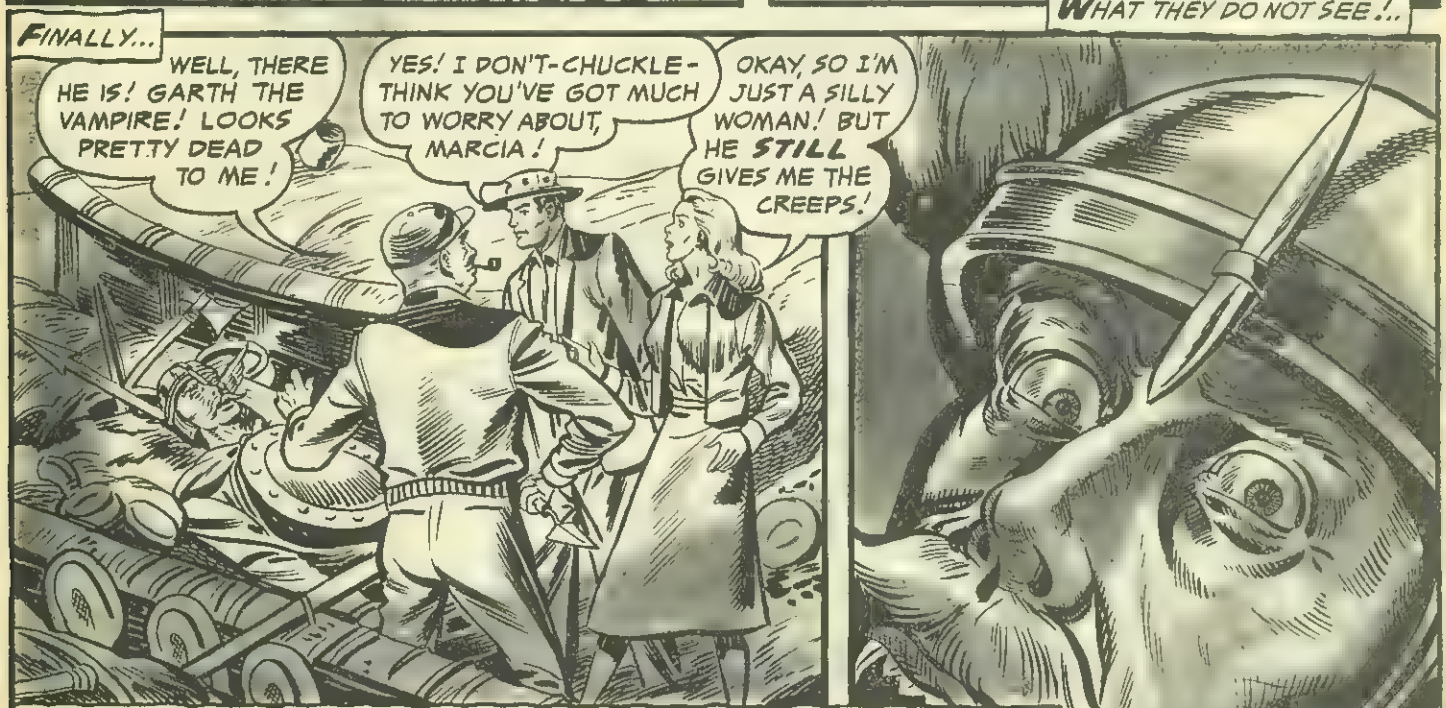
SURE ENOUGH THERE IS A STONE TABLET INTO WHICH IS CHISELED THE ANCIENT RUNIC CHARACTERS, A FORM OF "STICK" WRITING...

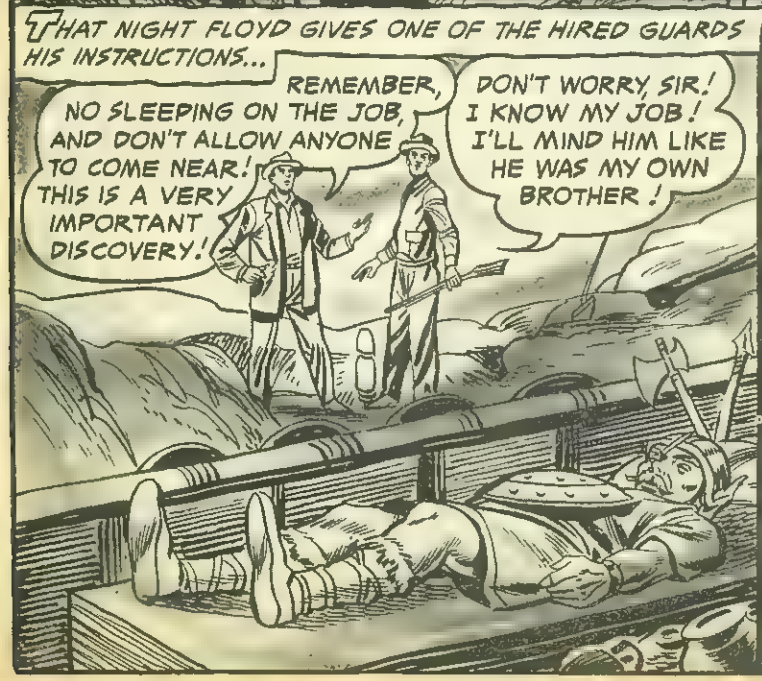
HMM—STRANGE! FROM WHAT I CAN MAKE OUT, IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF A CURSE! AND HIS NAME WAS GARTH! BUT YOU'RE THE RUNIC EXPERT, MARCIA!

YES, AND I DON'T LIKE THIS A BIT, FLOYD! UGH—IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS!


THAT NIGHT...
ACCORDING TO THESE RUNICS GARTH WAS A VAMPIRE! BUT HE WAS ALSO A BRAVE VIKING WARRIOR! SO WHEN HE WAS KILLED IN BATTLE HIS COMPANIONS COULDN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DRIVE A STAKE INTO HIS HEART! INSTEAD THEY LEFT THIS ON THE BODY TO KEEP HIM FROM WALKING AGAIN! BRRR!
HAH-HAH! SHE REALLY DOES!
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?


AS WORK PROCEEDS THE NEXT DAY...
EASY-EASY! BRUSH THE DEBRIS AWAY GENTLY NOW! HE'LL PROBABLY CRUMBLE AWAY AT A TOUCH!
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO! THE BODY IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE!
A BIG MAN, WASN'T HE?


FINALLY...
WELL, THERE HE IS! GARTH THE VAMPIRE! LOOKS PRETTY DEAD TO ME!
YES! I DON'T-CHUCKLE-THINK YOU'VE GOT MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT, MARCIA!
OKAY, SO I'M JUST A SILLY WOMAN! BUT HE STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
WHAT THEY DO NOT SEE!..

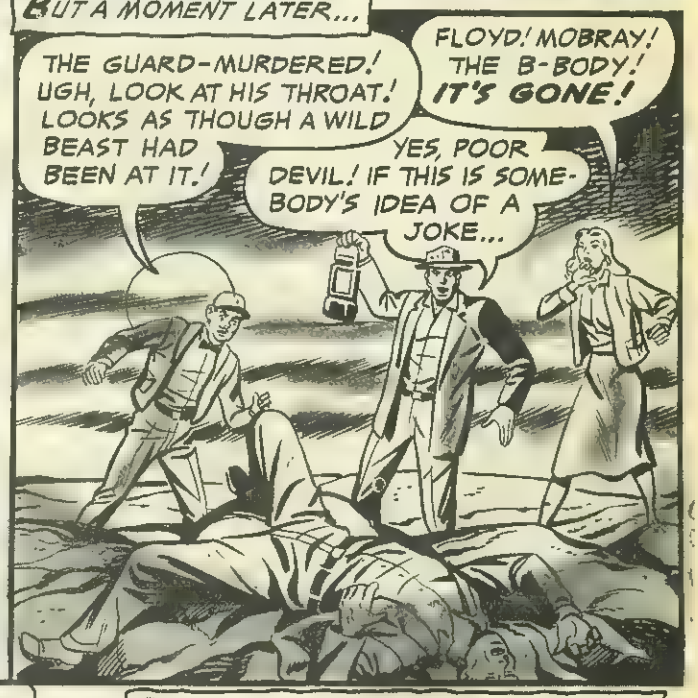

THAT NIGHT FLOYD GIVES ONE OF THE HIRED GUARDS HIS INSTRUCTIONS...
REMEMBER, NO SLEEPING ON THE JOB, AND DON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO COME NEAR! THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!
DON'T WORRY, SIR! I KNOW MY JOB! I'LL MIND HIM LIKE HE WAS MY OWN BROTHER!

BUT AS THE MOON REACHES THE ZENITH...
HO! GARTH IS FREE AT LAST! AND GARTH IS HUNGRY!
ALL A LOT OF BUNK! WHY GUARD A CORPSE?

SO GARTH THE VAMPIRE, AFTER A CENTURIES-LONG FAST, SATISFIES HIS TERRIBLE HUNGER AT LAST...
YAAAAAAHH-

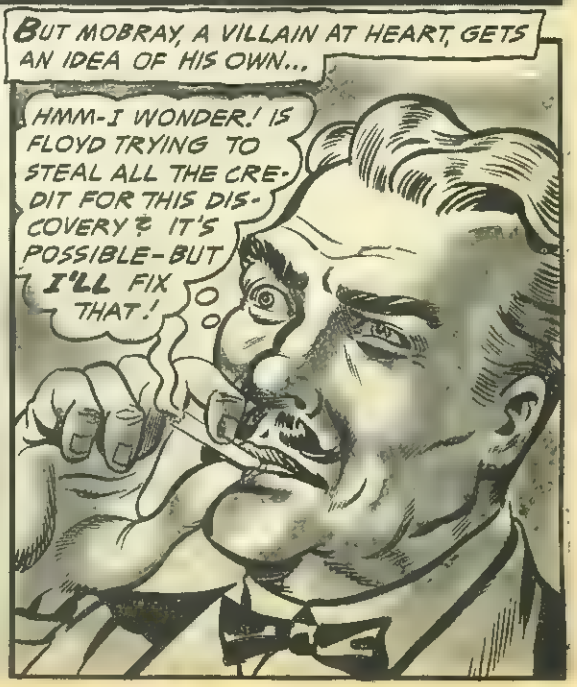
LATER...
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING! A SCREAM-DID EITHER OF YOU HEAR IT?
BETTER WATCH YOUR NERVES, MARCIA!
NO! JUST THE NOISE OF THE SEA!

THE SEA-EEEEEE! LOOK! THAT SHADOW ON THE TENT-IT'S HIM! IT'S THE VIKING! OHHH...
GREAT SCOTT, IT IS! COME ON, MOBRAY, WE'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE!
N-NO! IT'S INCREDIBLE! SOMEBODY IS PLAYING A NASTY JOKE!

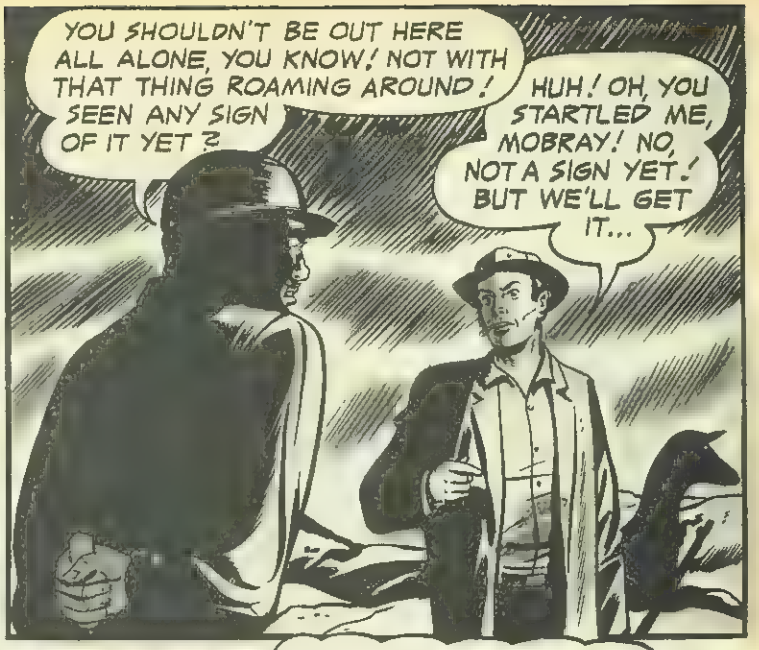

BUT A MOMENT LATER...
THE GUARD-MURDERED! UGH, LOOK AT HIS THROAT! LOOKS AS THOUGH A WILD BEAST HAD BEEN AT IT!
FLOYD! MOBRAY! THE B-BODY! IT'S GONE!
YES, POOR DEVIL! IF THIS IS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A JOKE...

GODFREY! THE BODY IS GONE! BUT HOW IN THE WORLD?
THEN YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE VAMPIRE IS WALKING AGAIN?
WHO ELSE?

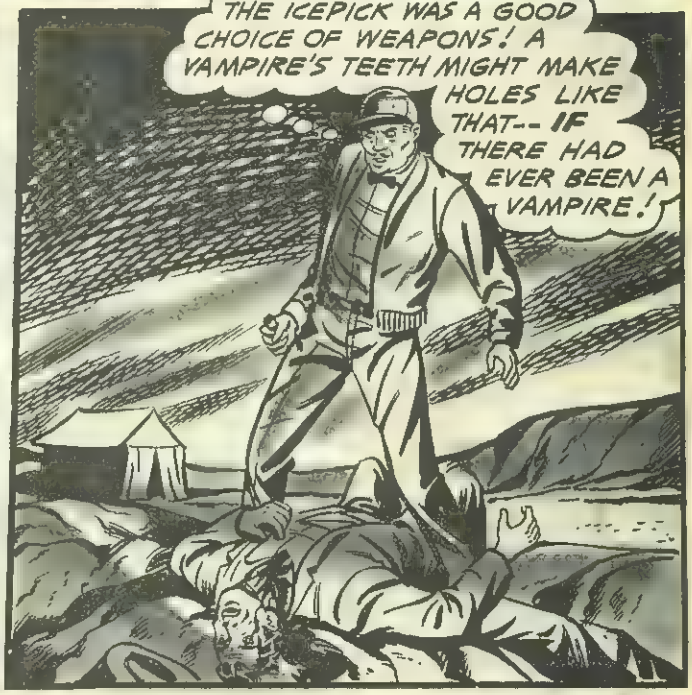
I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT, MOBRAY! THAT FIEND IS UNDEAD, AND HE KILLED THE GUARD! BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE WITH A STORY LIKE THIS! WE MUST FIND AND DESTROY HIM OURSELVES!
OH, DO YOU THINK WE CAN?
RISKY!


BUT MOBRAY, A VILLAIN AT HEART, GETS AN IDEA OF HIS OWN...
HMM-I WONDER! IS FLOYD TRYING TO STEAL ALL THE CREDIT FOR THIS DISCOVERY? IT'S POSSIBLE-BUT I'LL FIX THAT!

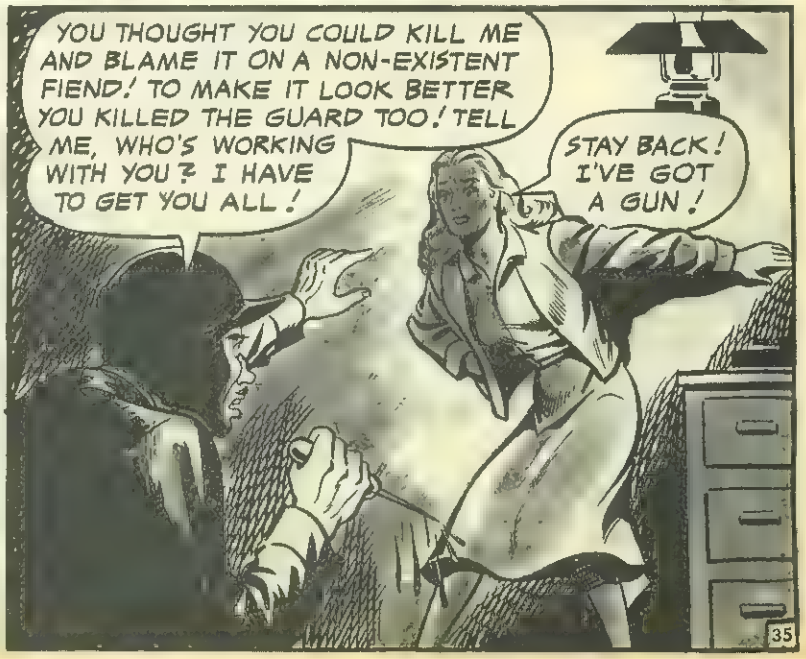
LATER...
FLOYD COULD HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE! AND THE ACCOMPLICE COULD HAVE KILLED THE GUARD AND STOLEN THE BODY OF THE VIKING! THAT MAKES IT EASY TO BLAME ANYTHING ON THE VAMPIRE--EVEN MY DEATH! BUT I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN THAN THAT!
FLOYD!


YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ALL ALONE, YOU KNOW! NOT WITH THAT THING ROAMING AROUND! SEEN ANY SIGN OF IT YET?
HUH! OH, YOU STARTLED ME, MOBRAY! NO, NOT A SIGN YET! BUT WE'LL GET IT...

YOU'LL GET IT FIRST, MY FRIEND! AND IF THERE IS A VAMPIRE HE'LL GET THE BLAME! AND I'LL GET THE CREDIT FOR FINDING THIS, BARROW! SORT OF WHAT YOU HAD IN STORE FOR ME, EH?
YOWW!

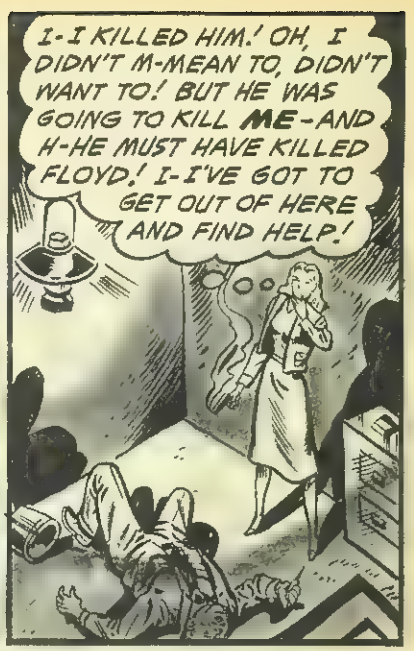

THE ICEPICK WAS A GOOD CHOICE OF WEAPONS! A VAMPIRE'S TEETH MIGHT MAKE HOLES LIKE THAT-- IF THERE HAD EVER BEEN A VAMPIRE!

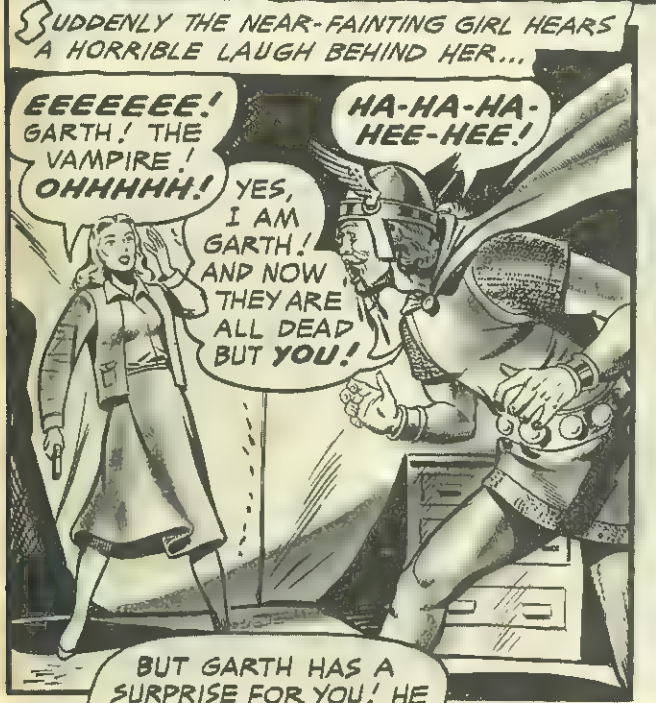
MOMENTS LATER...
MOBRAY! WHAT ON EARTH - OH, THAT ICEPICK, ALL BLOODY! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
NOT AS CRAZY AS YOU AND FLOYD THOUGHT! OH, I KNOW YOU WERE IN ON IT, TOO! YOU STARTED ALL THIS ABOUT A VAMPIRE...


YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL ME AND BLAME IT ON A NON-EXISTENT FIEND! TO MAKE IT LOOK BETTER YOU KILLED THE GUARD TOO! TELL ME, WHO'S WORKING WITH YOU? I HAVE TO GET YOU ALL!
STAY BACK! I'VE GOT A GUN!

YOU'RE INSANE, MOBRAY! KEEP BACK! I MEAN IT! I'LL SHOOT!
YOU LITTLE WITCH! YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE!

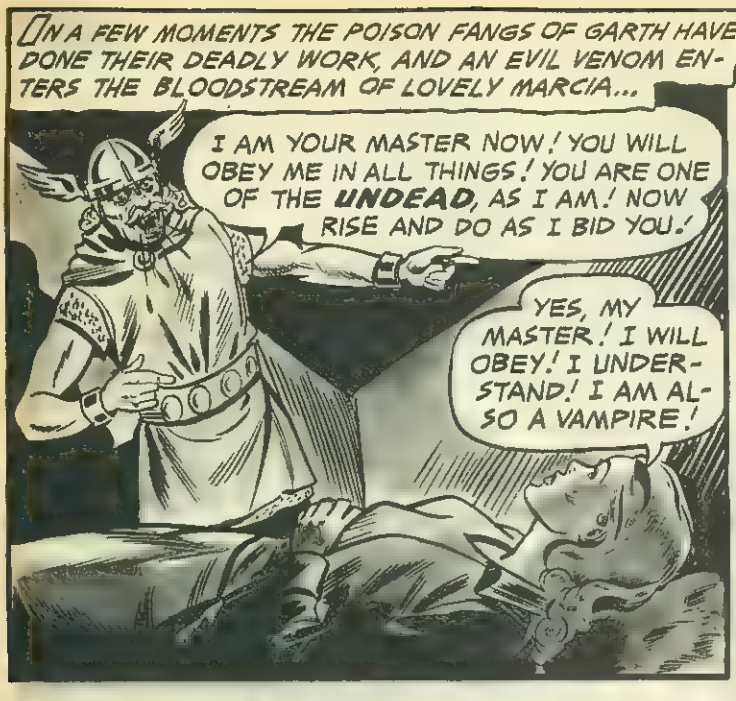
MOBRAY MAKES A SUDDEN LEAP FOR HER AND THE TERRIFIED GIRL FIRES...
NO! D-DON'T! I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU--I -OWWW!
YOU-- AHHH!


I-I KILLED HIM! OH, I DIDN'T M-MEAN TO, DIDN'T WANT TO! BUT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME-AND H-HE MUST HAVE KILLED FLOYD! I-I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND FIND HELP!


SUDDENLY THE NEAR-FAINTING GIRL HEARS A HORRIBLE LAUGH BEHIND HER...
EEEEEEE! GARTH! THE VAMPIRE! OHHHHH!
HA-HA-HA-HEE-HEE!
YES, I AM GARTH! AND NOW THEY ARE ALL DEAD BUT YOU!

OHH-YOU VILE CREATURE! YOU'RE D-DEAD! AHHH! D-DON'T TOUCH ME!
HO-HO! YOU ARE WRONG! I AM UN-DEAD! AND YOUR BULLETS CANNOT HARM ME!

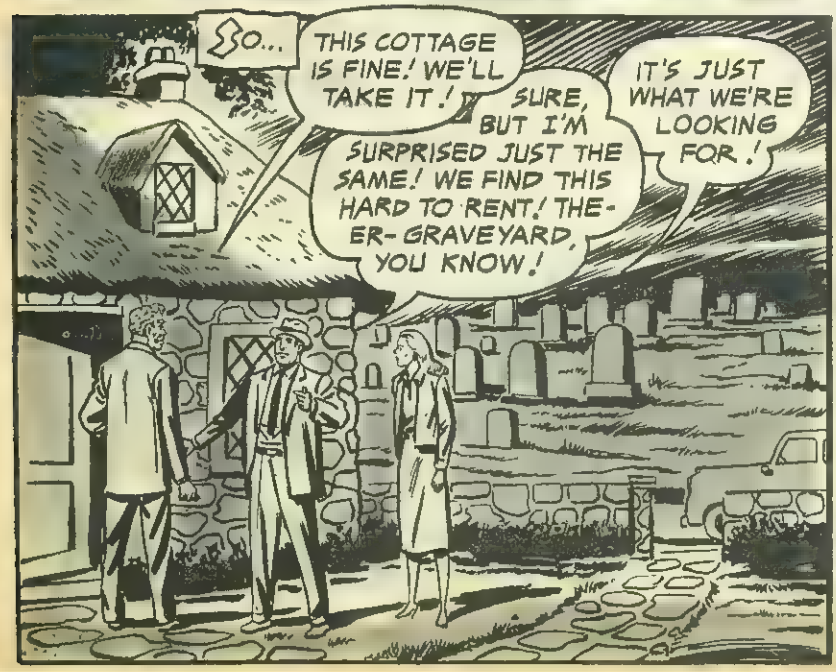
BUT GARTH HAS A SURPRISE FOR YOU! HE IS NOT GOING TO KILL YOU! NO INDEED! NOT YOU! HE HAS OTHER PLANS!
EEEEE
SEE HOW GENTLE I AM! I WILL NOT-CHUCKLE-HARM YOU!
OOWWW


IN A FEW MOMENTS THE POISON FANGS OF GARTH HAVE DONE THEIR DEADLY WORK, AND AN EVIL VENOM ENTERS THE BLOODSTREAM OF LOVELY MARCIA...
I AM YOUR MASTER NOW! YOU WILL OBEY ME IN ALL THINGS! YOU ARE ONE OF THE UNDEAD, AS I AM! NOW RISE AND DO AS I BID YOU!
YES, MY MASTER! I WILL OBEY! I UNDERSTAND! I AM ALSO A VAMPIRE!

BURN EVERYTHING! THEN YOU MUST GET ME SOME OF THESE FOOLISH CLOTHES YOUR MEN WEAR! WE WILL DISAPPEAR, YOU AND I! YOU CAN MAKE THE ODD CART MOVE WITHOUT HORSES?
YOU MEAN THE AUTOMOBILE? YES, MASTER, I CAN DRIVE ANYWHERE YOU SAY!
GAS

WE WILL FIND A HOUSE SOMEWHERE IN A SUITABLE SPOT! YOU WILL FIND THAT IT IS NOT SO BAD A THING TO BE A VAMPIRE, MY PRETTY MARCIA!
YES, MASTER

MUCH LATER...
WE ARE IN DEVON NOW, MASTER, MORE THAN 500 MILES FROM THE SITE OF THE BARROW! SHALL WE LOOK FOR A COTTAGE?
YES! I THINK I SEE A PLACE JUST AHEAD THAT WILL SUIT US!

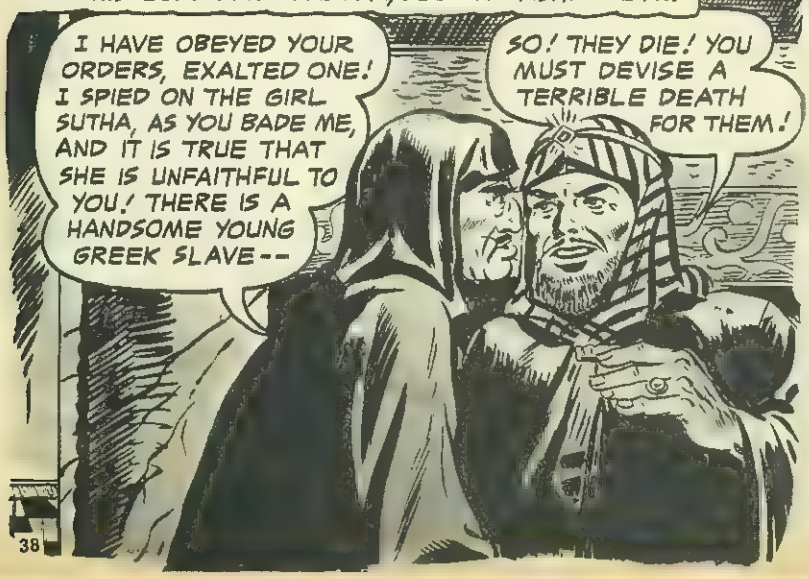

SO...
THIS COTTAGE IS FINE! WE'LL TAKE IT!
SURE, BUT I'M SURPRISED JUST THE SAME! WE FIND THIS HARD TO RENT! THE-ER- GRAVEYARD, YOU KNOW!
IT'S JUST WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

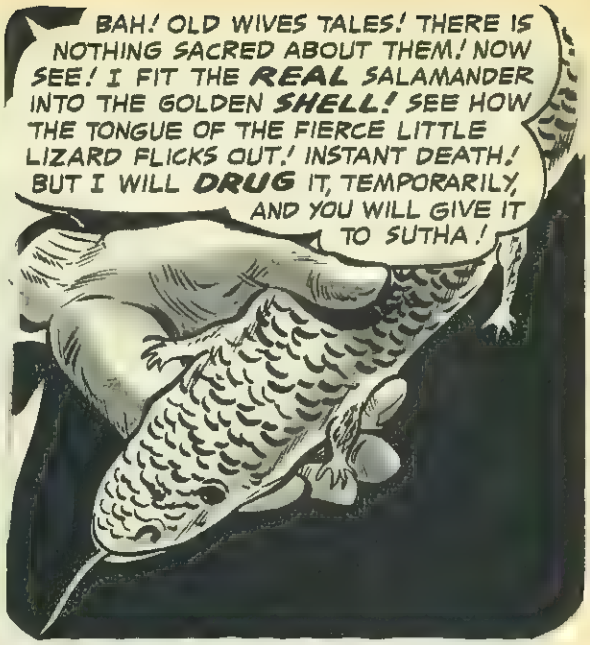
HA! IF THAT FOOL ONLY KNEW, EH, MARCIA? WE WILL FIND A SUITABLE COFFIN FOR EACH OF US AND SLEEP IN THEM BY DAY! AT NIGHT WE WILL ROAM THE COUNTRYSIDE AND FIND OUR PREY!
YES, MASTER! I KNOW WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE!
The End

SCALES of DEATH

THIS GRIM TALE HAD ITS WEIRD BEGINNING BACK IN THE DARK AGES, WHEN MEN, AND WOMEN TOO, WERE EVEN MORE CRUEL THAN THEY ARE TODAY! NONE COULD MATCH THE GUILE OF THIS ORIENTAL PRINCE AND POTENTATE, OR EQUAL HIS FIENDISH SKILL IN ANCIENT AND EVIL TORTURES! BUT IN PUNISHING AN UNFAITHFUL SLAVE HE SET A TERRIBLE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN MOTION, ONE WHICH LEFT A BLOODY TRAIL OF TERROR DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS! IN THE COLD OPAQUE EYES, IN THE SCALY GLITTER OF ITS SNAKE LIKE BODY THERE WAS **DEATH!** FOR IT WAS THE JEWELED SALAMANDER..

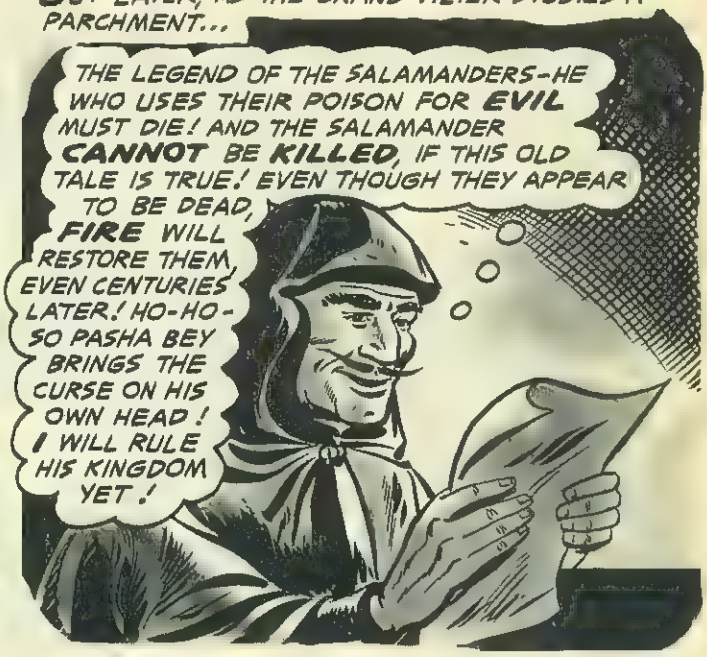
CENTURIES AGO IN THE FANTASTIC LAND OF OLD ARABY, WHERE EVIL LURKED BEHIND THE WALLS OF EVERY JEWELED PALACE, A CERTAIN GRAND VIZIER KEEPS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH HIS LORD AND MASTER, SULTAN PASHA BET...





SO LATER, PRETENDING THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING OF HER UNFAITHFULNESS, PASHA BET GIVES SUTHA THE DEADLY ORNAMENT...

BUT LATER, AS THE GRAND VIZIER STUDIES A PARCHMENT...

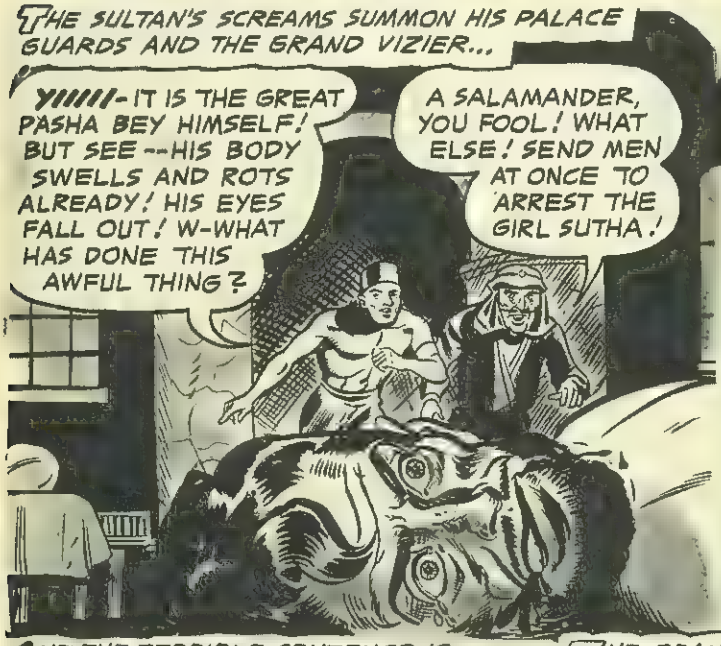


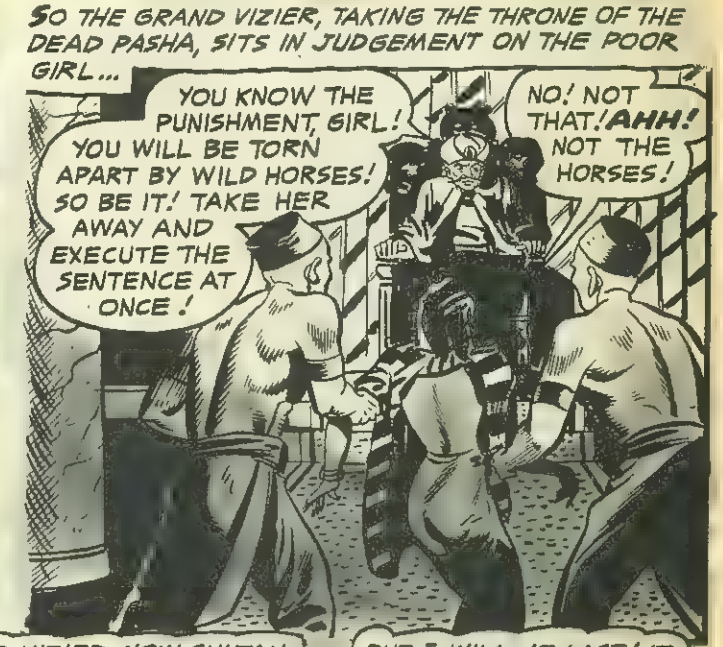
EVEN THEN, IN THE HAREM OF PASHA BEY! IT IS THE HOUR FOR RETIRING...

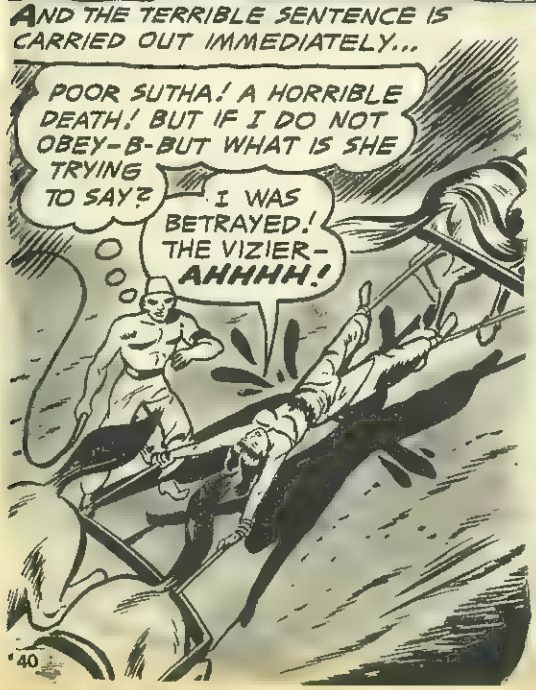
BUT THE DRUG HAS WORN OFF! WITH ONE FLICK OF ITS DEADLY TONGUE THE SALAMANDER STRIKES...

MEANTIME, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PALACE, THE SULTAN PREPARES FOR SLEEP, GLOATING OVER THE FATE OF THE UNFAITHFUL SUTHA...
PERHAPS I WILL DREAM OF THE SALAMANDER BITING HER! I WOULD LIKE THAT! SHE WILL SWELL UP, SHE WILL TURN BLACK AND HER EYES WILL FALL OUT! HOW SHE WILL SUFFER! MAYBE IT WILL BITE THE LOVER ALSO! AND IN THE MORNING I WILL HANG THEIR CORPSES ON HOOKS OUTSIDE THE PALACE WALLS!

SUDDENLY, BENEATH THE PILLOW, HE FEELS SOMETHING COLD...
EYOWWWW! THE SALAMANDER! S-SHE PUT IT UNDER MY PILLOW! M-MY THROAT! GAAA!


THE SULTAN'S SCREAMS SUMMON HIS PALACE GUARDS AND THE GRAND VIZIER...
YIIIII- IT IS THE GREAT PASHA BEY HIMSELF! BUT SEE --HIS BODY SWELLS AND ROTS ALREADY! HIS EYES FALL OUT! W-WHAT HAS DONE THIS AWFUL THING?
A SALAMANDER, YOU FOOL! WHAT ELSE! SEND MEN AT ONCE TO ARREST THE GIRL SUTHA!

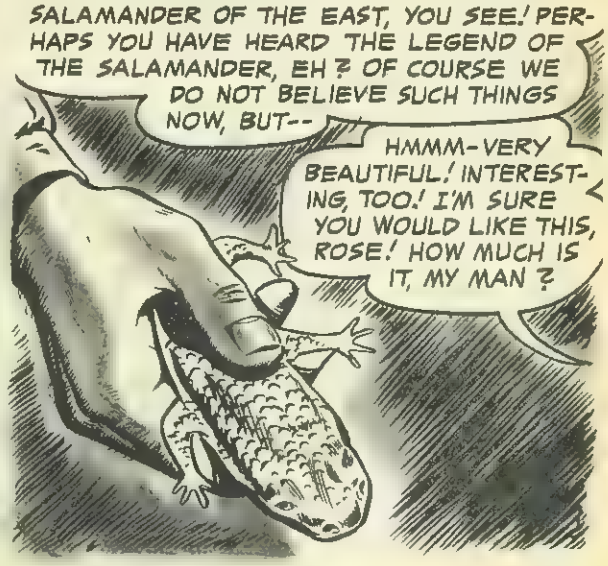

SO THE GRAND VIZIER, TAKING THE THRONE OF THE DEAD PASHA, SITS IN JUDGEMENT ON THE POOR GIRL...
YOU KNOW THE PUNISHMENT, GIRL! YOU WILL BE TORN APART BY WILD HORSES! SO BE IT! TAKE HER AWAY AND EXECUTE THE SENTENCE AT ONCE!
NO! NOT THAT! AHH! NOT THE HORSES!


AND THE TERRIBLE SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY...
POOR SUTHA! A HORRIBLE DEATH! BUT IF I DO NOT OBEY-B-BUT WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO SAY?
I WAS BETRAYED! THE VIZIER- AHHHH!

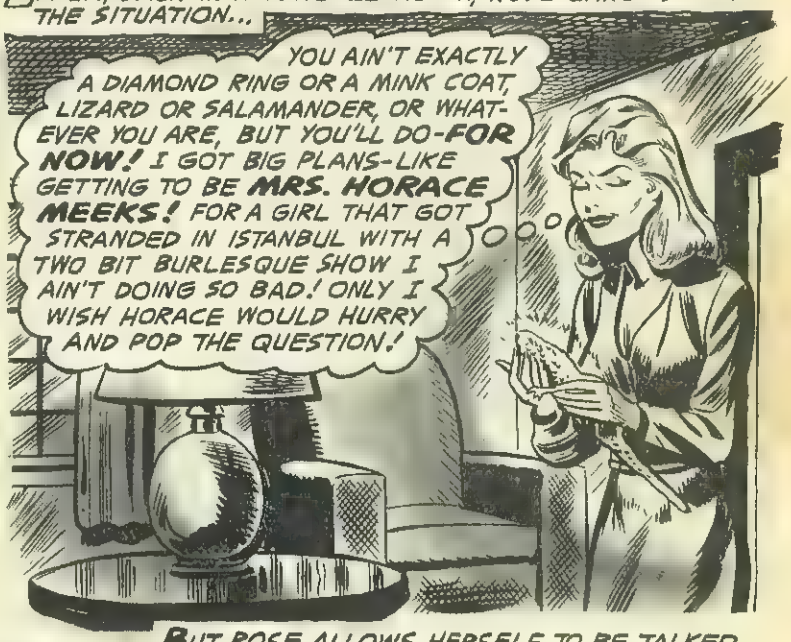
THE GRAND VIZIER, NOW SULTAN, WATCHES WITH A CRAFTY SMILE...
AN EVIL SIGHT, EXCELLENT ONE! SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
I WILL NOT SLEEP WELL TO-NIGHT! THUS TO ALL TRAITORS!

BUT I WILL-AT LAST! IT WAS A CRAFTY PLAN! I WAS SUTHA'S LOVER, I PUT THE SALAMANDER UNDER THE SULTAN'S PILLOW AFTER IT FAILED TO KILL HER! AND NOW SHE IS DEAD AND I AM SAFE- AND SULTAN AT LAST!

THE ANCIENT RECORDS SAY THAT THE VIZIER, IN HIS TURN, WAS PUT TO DEATH BY BOILING IN OIL, BUT NOW IT IS CENTURIES LATER, IN A CURIO SHOP IN ISTANBUL! HORACE MEEKS, A TOURIST, BUYS A GIFT FOR A NEW ACQUAINTANCE, ROSE LARUE..



LATER, BACK IN HER HOTEL ROOM, ROSE LARUE STUDIES THE SITUATION...



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BUT ROSE ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE TALKED INTO MAKING THE JOURNEY...

ROSE LARUE IS SO RIGHT! WHEN THEY REACH THE BOSTON HOME OF CHARITY MEEKS THERE IS AN INSTANT DECLARATION OF WAR...

YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS LARUE, DEAR GIRL? MMM- I DON'T **REMEMBER** A FAMILY BY THAT NAME! AND YOU'RE IN, ER, SHOW BUSINESS, I BELIEVE! THAT **IS** DISTRESSING, **MOST** DISTRESSING! I'M AFRAID, MISS LARUE, THAT YOUR MOTIVES ARE MOST TRANSPARENT! REALLY THEY ARE! AND MY BROTHER IS A MIDDLE AGED FOOL IF HE HASN'T TOLD YOU--

NOW JUST A MINUTE, YOU OLD BIDDY!

CHARITY, PLEASE!

KINDLY KEEP QUIET, HORACE! AS I WAS SAYING, MISS LARUE, I FEEL THAT HORACE HASN'T TOLD YOU THAT I CONTROL THE MONEY IN THIS FAMILY! ALL OF IT! NOW I DON'T, ER, BEGRUDGE YOU WHAT YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN ALREADY, BUT IN THE FUTURE...

HAH! **THIS** IS WHAT I GOT! A PIECE OF JUNK! AND YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK AS OF NOW!

FOR ONCE HER TEMPER WINS OVER HER JUDGEMENT...

TAKE YOUR BLASTED LIZARD, OR SALAMANDER, OR WHATEVER IT IS! AND TAKE YOUR DODDERING OLD FOOL OF A BROTHER, TOO! WHO COULD LOVE AN OLD MUMMY LIKE HIM!

YOU SEE, HORACE, I WAS RIGHT! THIS IS WHAT COMES OF PICKING UP WITH STRANGERS! PLEASE SHOW HER THE DOOR!

NO, ROSE, DON'T! THAT COST ME THOUSANDS!

BUT AS THE ANGRY GIRL TURNS FOR A LAST FLING SHE SEES SOMETHING IN THE FIREPLACE! SOMETHING THAT BRINGS TERROR TO HER HEART AND A SCREAM TO HER LIPS...

YEAH, **GOODBYE!** AND IF I NEVER-OHH- THERE **BEHIND** YOU, THE FIREPLACE! THAT **THING!**

EEEEEE-

GREAT SCOTT, THE SALAMANDER!

AHHHHH! IT'S ALIVE!

C-COMING OUT OF THE FIRE! SO B-BIG! A MONSTER!

AS THE OTHERS STAND ROOTED BY TERROR...

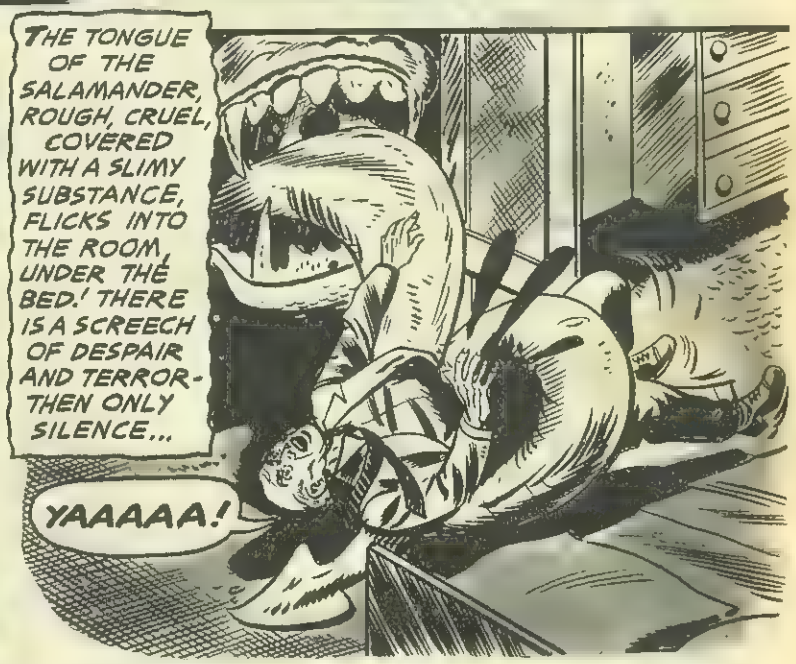
IT'S TONGUE! AFTER ROSE! **RUN!**

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE-- **EEEEEEE!**

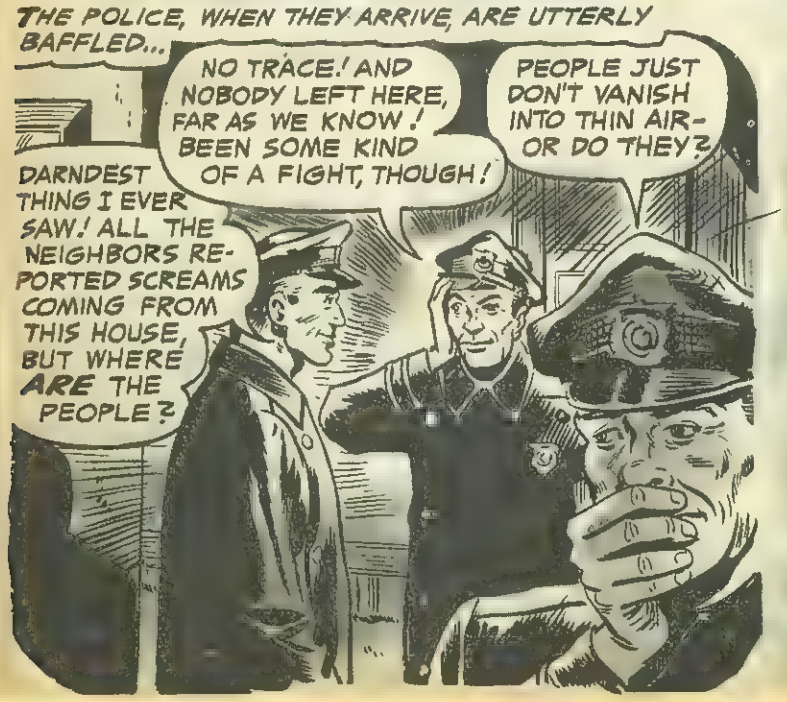
AHHHHHHH! SWALLOWING ME!

SO THE LEGEND COMES TO LIFE! THE DRIED, ATROPHIED SALAMANDER, INSIDE THE GOLD SHELL OF THE LONG DEAD VIZIER, IMBIBES NEW LIFE FROM THE FLAMES! THE GOLD MELTS AND THE SALAMANDER, HUGE NOW, COMES RAVENING AFTER ITS PREY...

SO IN THE END ALL THREE HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES EVIL—AND HAVE TRIED TO USE THE SALAMANDER FOR EVIL! HOW THE SULTAN, PASHA BEY, MUST HAVE LAUGHED FROM HIS GRID IN HADES! **HE** COULD HAVE TOLD THEM..



THE POLICE, WHEN THEY ARRIVE, ARE UTTERLY BAFFLED...



SUDDENLY...

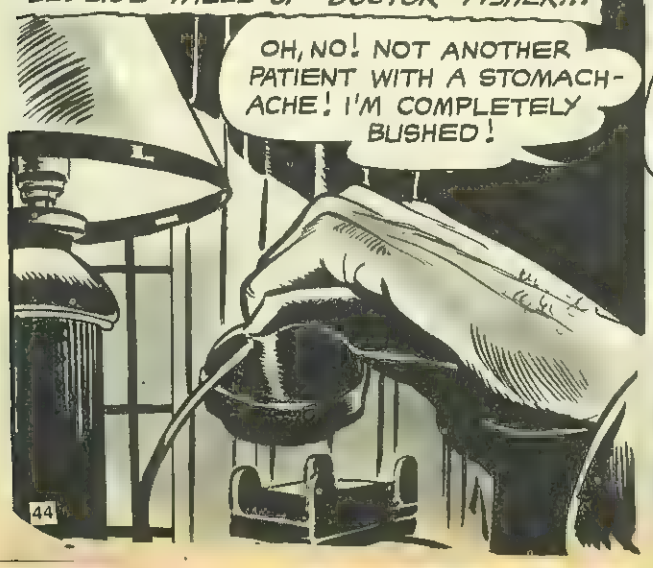
'43.

The End

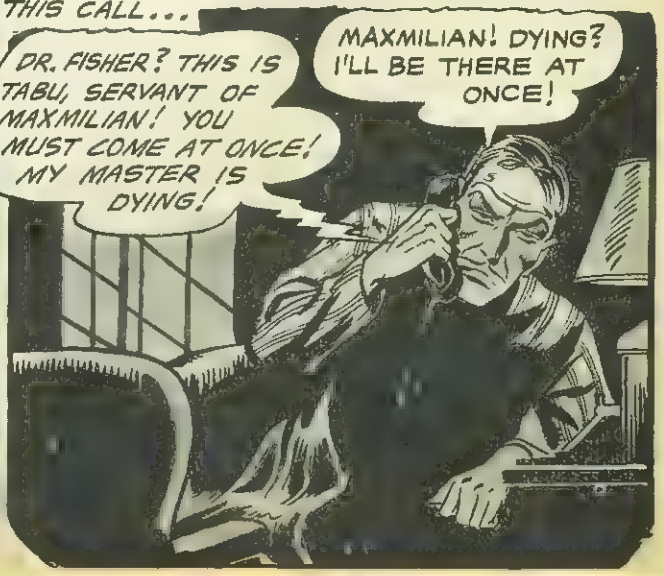
IN THE DARK OF NIGHT A PHONE JANGLED EERILY, CALLING DOCTOR MORRIS FISHER TO THE MOST TERRIBLE ADVENTURE OF HIS CAREER! THE NEXT FEW HOURS WERE TO PLUNGE HIM INTO THE MIDST OF EVENTS SO HORRIBLE THAT NO MAN COULD FACE THEM AND KEEP HIS SANITY—OR HIS LIFE! THE GAME WAS DEADLY, THE STAKES WERE HIGH, AND FOR THE PLAYERS THERE WAS NO RETURN FROM GRIM DISASTER! LISTEN NOW, TO THE BELL AS IT SOUNDS A **KNELL AT MIDNIGHT...**

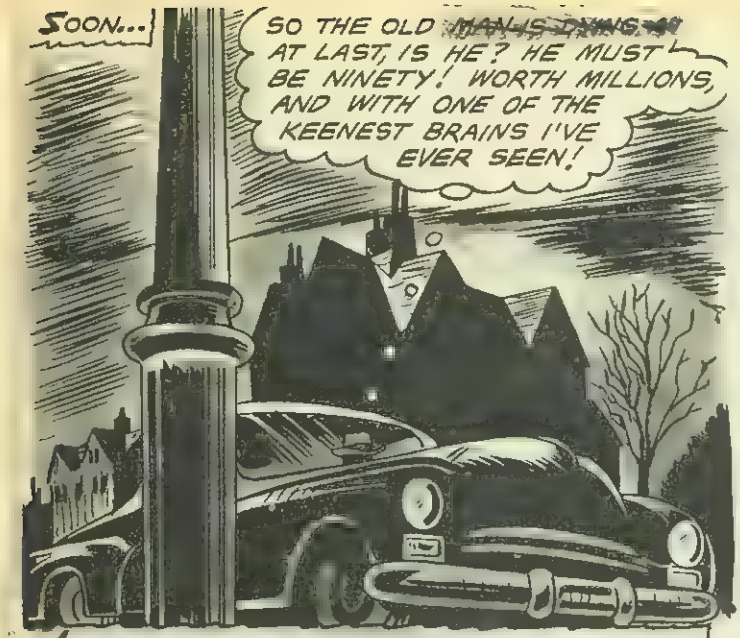
SKULLS of DOOM

MIDNIGHT! THE PHONE RINGS ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE OF DOCTOR FISHER...



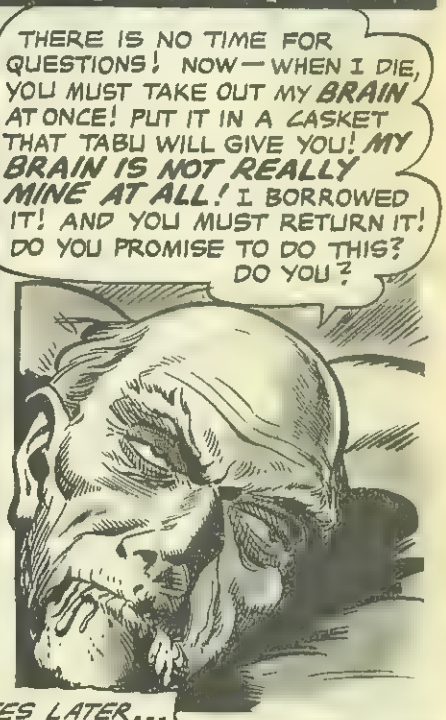
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS CALL...

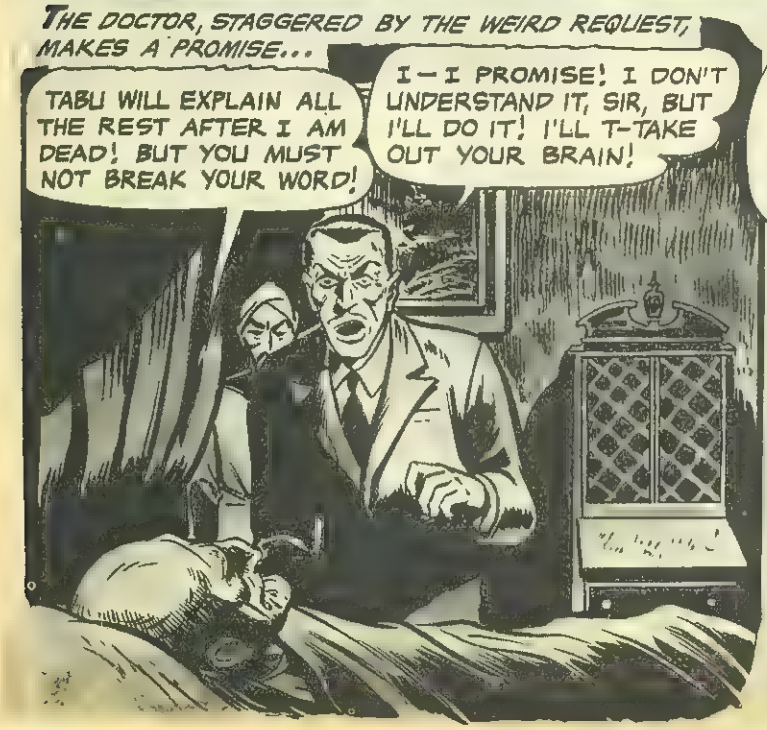



SOON...
SO THE OLD MAN IS DYING AT LAST, IS HE? HE MUST BE NINETY! WORTH MILLIONS, AND WITH ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS I'VE EVER SEEN!

HOW IS HE NOW, TABU?
YOU MUST HURRY, DOCTOR! HIS ORDERS ARE THAT YOU GO TO HIM AT ONCE!

INSTANTLY THE DOCTOR SENSES SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THE DEATH ROOM...
HURRY, FISHER! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I TELL YOU— AND YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY ME!
OF COURSE, SIR! ANYTHING I CAN DO!
THEY GET ODD IDEAS WHEN THEY'RE DYING!


THERE IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! NOW— WHEN I DIE, YOU MUST TAKE OUT MY BRAIN AT ONCE! PUT IT IN A CASKET THAT TABU WILL GIVE YOU! MY BRAIN IS NOT REALLY MINE AT ALL! I BORROWED IT! AND YOU MUST RETURN IT! DO YOU PROMISE TO DO THIS? DO YOU?


THE DOCTOR, STAGGERED BY THE WEIRD REQUEST, MAKES A PROMISE...
TABU WILL EXPLAIN ALL THE REST AFTER I AM DEAD! BUT YOU MUST NOT BREAK YOUR WORD!
I—I PROMISE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR, BUT I'LL DO IT! I'LL T-TAKE OUT YOUR BRAIN!

MINUTES LATER...
HE'S GONE, TABU! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE HIS EYES! THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
HE WAS A GREAT AND GOOD MAN! I, TABU, WILL MAKE SURE HIS LAST WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!

A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IS RIGGED...

NO TIME TO WASTE! WHILE I'M SAWING THE SKULL OPEN, YOU CAN BE EXPLAINING!

THE STORY BEGINS IN EGYPT, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THERE WAS A HIGH PRIEST CALLED VISHNU!

VISHNU! SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! DIDN'T THEY MAKE A GOD OF HIM AFTER HE DIED?

YOU ARE CORRECT! BUT THEY DID MORE...

BEFORE HE WAS ENTOMBED, THEY REMOVED HIS BRAIN AND PRESERVED IT! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON THE ***BRAIN DID NOT DIE!***

NOW WAIT A MINUTE, TABU! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME...

BUT I AM, SIR! ***THIS*** IS THE BRAIN OF ***VISHNU!*** MR. MAXMILIAN DISCOVERED IT IN A TOMB SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO! ***IT WAS STILL ALIVE!*** HE DARED TO TAKE IT AND HAVE IT ***PUT INTO HIS OWN SKULL!*** LATER HE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH VISHNU CAME TO HIM!

AND NOW THE BRAIN MUST BE RETURNED?

YOU GUESSED IT, SIR! VISHNU WAS VERY ANGRY, BUT HE PERMITTED MR. MAXMILIAN TO KEEP HIS BRAIN PROVIDED IT WAS USED FOR GOOD PURPOSES—AND ONLY IF IT WAS RETURNED AFTER MR. MAXMILIAN'S DEATH!

INCREDIBLE!

LATER... AS YOU SAY, INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE! MR. MAXMILIAN USED THE ANCIENT WISDOM OF THE BRAIN TO GOOD ADVANTAGE, AS YOU KNOW! BUT NOW IT MUST GO BACK TO ITS TOMB IN EGYPT! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SIR, BECAUSE ONLY A DOCTOR COULD REMOVE THE BRAIN WITHOUT HARMING IT!

OF ALL THE CRAZY YARNS... BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IT! AND IF IT ***IS*** TRUE, WHAT A CHANCE FOR ME! A BRAIN—ALIVE AFTER FIVE-THOUSAND YEARS! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO MY LAB AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT IT!

FASCINATED BY THE BRAIN, AND THE WEIRD STORY CONNECTED WITH IT, THE DOCTOR WORKS UNTIL DAWN...

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE BRAIN IS EXTREMELY OLD! THE TISSUE SHOWS THAT CLEARLY! AND THE DEGREE OF CONVOLUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND COMPLICATED!

NO WONDER OLD MAXMILIAN WAS SO WISE AND SUCCESSFUL! WHO WOULDN'T BE, WITH A BRAIN LIKE THIS? MARVELOUS, TOO, HOW IT **CONTINUES TO LIVE!** IT WOULD BE A PITY TO PUT IT BACK IN SOME DECAYING TOMB!

BY NOW, THE DOCTOR'S OWN BRAIN IS HARD AT WORK! NEXT DAY HE VISITS HIS OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL...

HELLO, DEAN BAXTER! I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR? I NEED A BRAIN — JUST ANY OLD BRAIN WILL DO!

I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT FOR ONE OF OUR MOST BRILLIANT GRADUATES! COME WITH ME TO THE DISSECTING ROOM!

NOTICE

AND LATER...

WHAT IS THIS YOU SAY, SIR? YOU CANNOT RETURN THE BRAIN TO EGYPT AS YOU PROMISED?

NO! I'M MUCH TOO BUSY! I ONLY MADE THAT PROMISE TO A DYING OLD MAN! IF **YOU** WANT TO RETURN THE BRAIN — HERE IT IS!

YOU HAVE BROKEN FAITH, BUT TABU WILL NOT! I WILL RETURN THE BRAIN IN YOUR STEAD! GOODBYE, DR. FISHER!

GOODBYE, TABU! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRIP!

BUT THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR CHUCKLES AT HIS OWN CLEVERNESS...

VERY NEAT! TABU NEVER GUESSED THAT I SWITCHED THE BRAINS! NOW I CAN STUDY VISHNU'S BRAIN TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR HITS UPON A MORE DARING PLAN...

I KNOW YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF MEDICINE, TORKS, BUT YOU WERE ONCE A BRILLIANT BRAIN SPECIALIST! IS ANY OF THAT SKILL LEFT?

I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS, DOCTOR FISHER! ALL I NEED IS A BREAK!

LATER...

WE'RE GOING TO A SPECIAL LABORATORY I'VE FITTED UP, TORKS! I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION! IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

THIS BRAIN! I WANT YOU TO REMOVE ***MY*** BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH THIS ONE! DO IT AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! I'LL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY!

B-BUT YOU MIGHT D-DIE! IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I TOUCHED A SCALPEL! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS — HOW CAN YOU...

BUT TORKS, OUTLAWED FROM MEDICINE, AT LAST AGREES TO PERFORM THE OPERATION...

REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU! THERE MUST BE NO SLIPS! AND ABOVE ALL, NO ONE MUST KNOW OF THIS!

YOU'RE TAKING AN AWFUL GAMBLE, LETTING A GIN-SOAKED OLD WRECK LIKE ME DO THIS OPERATION! BUT I'LL DO MY BEST!

SO DR. MORRIS FISHER FALLS AWAY INTO DARKNESS, STAKING HIS LIFE ON THE OLD MAN'S RUSTY SKILLS...

NOW LET'S SEE— FIRST THE TRANSVERSE SLASH TO LOOSEN THE SCALP, SO IT CAN BE PEELED BACK!

TWO WEEKS LATER...

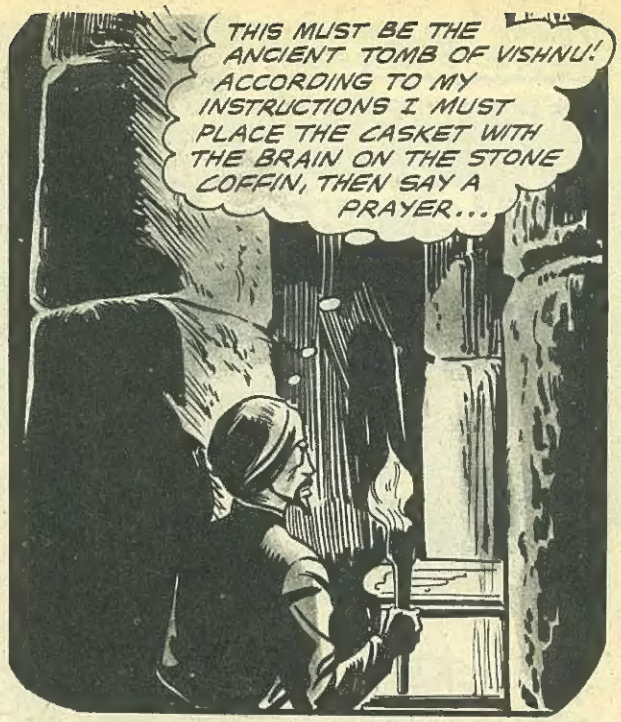
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TAKE THEM OFF NOW, FISHER! I REALLY DID A REMARKABLE JOB! BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT BRAIN!

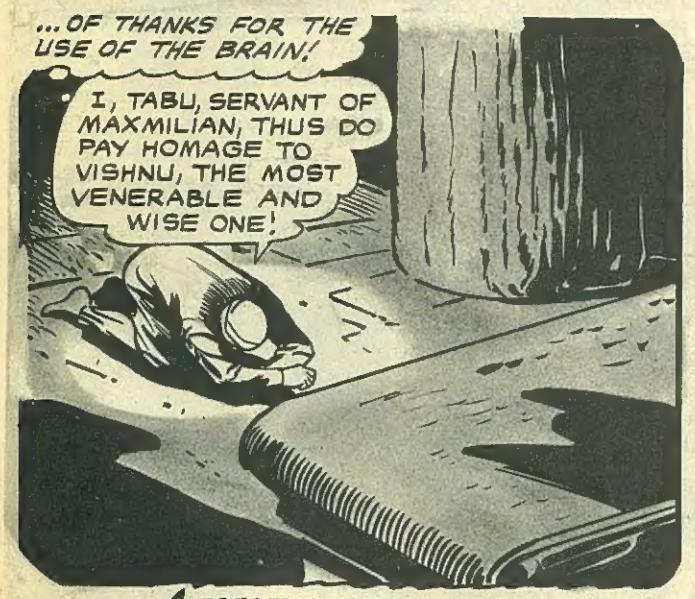
LATER, TORKS, LATER!

FIRST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE DRINK TO CELEBRATE! BUT I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE OF OUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT WHILE I WAS CONVALESCING!

NOT A WORD!

MEANTIME, TABU MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT! ONE NIGHT ON THE UPPER NILE...
AT LAST I CAN RETURN THE BRAIN TO VISHNU! THEN BOTH OF US CAN REST IN PEASE! BUT I AM STILL PUZZLED BY THE BEHAVIOR OR DOCTOR FISHER!


THIS MUST BE THE ANCIENT TOMB OF VISHNU! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS I MUST PLACE THE CASKET WITH THE BRAIN ON THE STONE COFFIN, THEN SAY A PRAYER...


...OF THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE BRAIN!
I, TABU, SERVANT OF MAXMILIAN, THUS DO PAY HOMAGE TO VISHNU, THE MOST VENERABLE AND WISE ONE!

BUT SUDDENLY...
L-LIGHTNING! THE TOMB IS S-SHATTERED! VISHNU MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME!

A SPECTRAL FIGURE LOOMS FROM THE COFFIN...
FOOL! CURSED MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME THIS BRAIN? DO YOU THINK VISHNU DOES NOT KNOW IT IS THE BRAIN OF ANOTHER?
ANOTHER? B-BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS YOUR BRAIN, VISHNU! I RETURN IT AS MY MASTER BADE ME!

LIAR! IT IS THE BRAIN OF A MADMAN, A CRIMINAL, TAKEN FROM A NAMELESS BODY! VISHNU KNOWS! DIE, NOW!
AEEEEEEEE-

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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YOU FOOLED TABU, DOCTOR, BUT NOT VISHNU! I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM EGYPT TO GET MY BRAIN!
NO! YOU C-CAN'T! I-I HAVE THE BRAIN IN MY SKULL!
SOMETHING GLITTERS CRUELLY IN THE BONY HANDS OF VISHNU...
NO — NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME! AHHHHEEE-
YOU ARE WRONG AGAIN, DOCTOR! VISHNU CAN DO IT! NOW GIVE IT TO ME!
AGGHHHHH- YOU'RE SLICING MY SKULL OPEN!
AT LAST! AND IT SEEMS TO BE UNHARMED! WHICH- (CHUCKLE) — IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, DOCTOR!
LATER, A STARK AND TERRIBLE FIGURE IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST A BLOOD-RED MOON...
NOW VISHNU CAN RETURN TO HIS TOMB IN PEACE! PERHAPS TO SLEEP FOREVER!
BEHIND, IN THE SILENT HOUSE, IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF DR. MORRIS FISHER! LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM HE HAD LEARNED A TERRIBLE LESSON — KNOWLEDGE MUST BE EARNED! IT CANNOT BE STOLEN...
The End